

New Paltz mayor faces charges
DA pushing on in criminal case arising
from same-sex weddings in 2004.

page 19

Mission accomplished
Three queer SF State students
graduate with honors.

page 14

A sure Bette
Matthew Martin does
Bette Davis in 'Hush.'
see Arts section



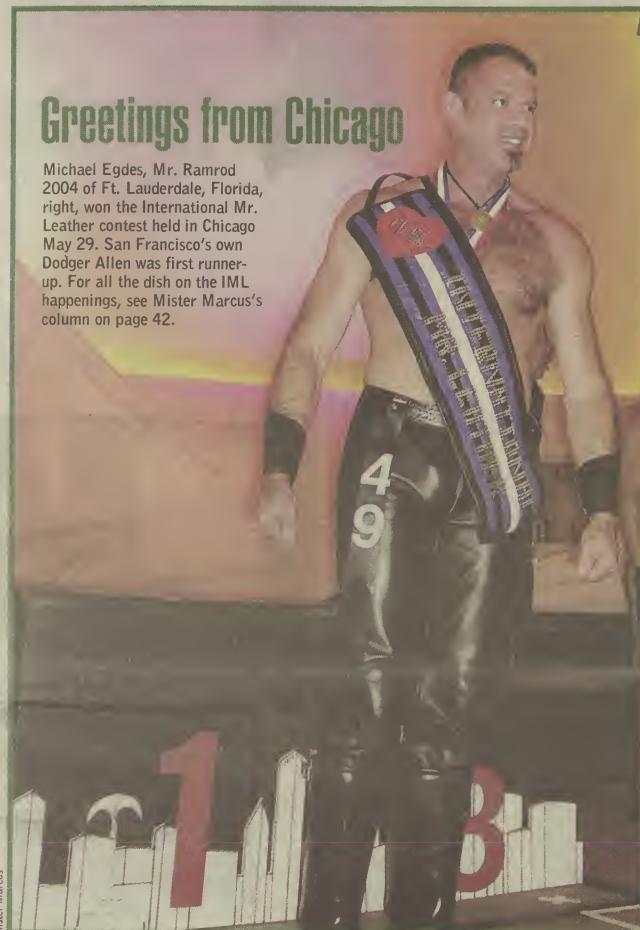
BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Greetings from Chicago

Michael Egdes, Mr. Ramrod 2004 of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, right, won the International Mr. Leather contest held in Chicago May 29. San Francisco's own Dodger Allen was first runner-up. For all the dish on the IML happenings, see Mister Marcus's column on page 42.



Mister Marcus

Lockyer appeals gay marriage cases

by Matthew S. Bajko

Attorney General Bill Lockyer filed notices of appeal Tuesday, May 31 in four same-sex marriage cases in which San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard A. Kramer ruled last month the state's ban against gay marriage is unconstitutional.

Also Tuesday, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) saw an expected floor vote in the Assembly on his gay marriage bill, AB19, postponed due to Democratic leaders unveiling their budget plan for fiscal year 2005. In addition, the *San Francisco Chronicle* became the first major daily paper in the state to endorse passage of the bill, in an editorial Tuesday simply titled "It's time."

"The notion that the sanctioning of same-sex marriage somehow threatens traditional marriage is simply absurd. Married heterosexuals have more to worry about in the wandering eyes of their fellow heterosexuals than in the determination of gays and lesbians to make lifetime commitments to each other. If anything, the effort to extend the right to marry to all citizens, regardless of



Attorney General Bill Lockyer at a news conference last year after the state Supreme Court invalidated the same-sex marriages performed in San Francisco.

sexual orientation, is an affirmation of the institution of marriage," wrote the paper's editorial board.

A vote on Leno's bill, which would change the state's definition of marriage to a union

Badlands case one year later

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the one-year anniversary nears of when complainants went public with their charges of racism against bar owner Les Natali, they are still searching for their own resolution in the matter. Angry not only with the length of time it has taken authorities to investigate the charges, the complainants continue to feel slighted and degraded by the man who they charge created a discriminatory environment at one of the Castro's more popular hangouts.

Still waiting for city and state officials to decide if they will level punitive actions against Natali, they and their supporters have been venting their frustrations and anger during weekly pickets outside Natali's establishment, San Francisco Badlands.



One year later: Badlands was packed last Saturday night, even as about 100 demonstrators picketed outside. This month marks the one-year anniversary of discrimination complaints being lodged against bar owner Les Natali.

After the city's Human Rights Commission issued a report in April finding Natali engaged in racist business practices, the group And Castro For All called for the boycott of the bar and have staged weekly pickets outside it the last four Saturday nights.

Natali, who has denied the charges brought against him and is appealing the HRC report, has seen his bar's very name transformed from evoking a carefree Western mentality to a more sinister overtone. He and his staff and loyal customers are trying to change the perception of those people who now consider the bar to be a place where bad things did occur to people of color.

As accusations about the real motives driving the issue fly back and forth between the two sides, lost so far amid the feuding and countercharges is any real discussion about ending racism and promoting diversity. The pickets for some have only added confusion as to who to believe and left many wondering if the only satisfactory resolution for the protesters will be the shuttering of the bar.

Past demonstrations have included chants of "shame on you" as patrons enter the bar, provoking some to shout back, using racial epithets at the picketers. Others have not been as confrontational, lending support or showing a willingness to listen.

Court cases

No date has been set for when the appeals court will hear arguments in the same-sex marriage cases, but it is expected the state Supreme Court will hear the matter sometime in 2006. On average, it takes about one year for a district court of appeal to issue a final ruling from the date on which the notice of appeal has been filed. The sooner the court would hear oral arguments is sometime this fall.

Matt Dorsey, spokesman for City Attorney Dennis Herrera, said on Tuesday that Herrera had no comment about the appeals, and added that it was an expected development in the ongoing legal battle for marriage equality.

"It's a procedural step we all have been

"I was shocked to learn about the discrimination and I was appalled to hear it is happening in the Castro," said Kim Lucia, 31, an out lesbian from Alameda who decided to join the picket line this past weekend.

In the Bay Area for four years, Lucia said she herself never felt discriminated against in the Castro for being a woman. She added that, "I never went to Badlands. I thought it was a boy bar."

She said she decided to join in the protests because "every gay group is focused on issues of gay marriage right now but the issue of inclusion is also really important."

The impact the pickets are having on people like Lucia and the hundreds of people who have also come out prove the strategy is

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The advertisement features a large circular logo at the top left containing a stylized script 'S'. To the right of the logo, the text 'SUTTER DENTAL' is written in a serif font, with 'SPA & SEDATION DENTISTRY' underneath in a smaller font. Below this, the text 'Formerly Michael W. Blevins, DDS & Associates' is displayed. The central part of the ad contains two black and white portrait photographs of dentists. The left photo is of Barry Witt, DDS, and the right photo is of Chris Bonin, DDS. Below each portrait is the dentist's name and title. At the bottom of the page, there is a statement about Delta Dental providers and patient financing, followed by a list of dental services offered.

Praying to end homophobia



Metropolitan Community Churches and other denominations observed "World Day of Prayer to End Homophobia" Sunday, May 29. At MCC-SF in the Castro, congregants Fernando Orlando, left, and James Olivera read the liturgy in recognition of the event. According to MCC moderator the Reverend Dr. Troy Perry, "Homophobia distorts the spiritual message of God's love for all people." MCC, which organized the day of prayer, noted that supporters of the event included various Anglican, Episcopal, Unitarian, Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ churches as well as Jewish temples.

CA high court hears lesbians' arguments in country club case

by Zak Szymanski

A case before the California Supreme Court could decide whether illegal discrimination is committed when businesses make distinctions between their married and unmarried clientele.

The case — *Koebke v. Bernardo Heights Country Club* — was heard Thursday, May 26 in San Francisco, and stems from a lawsuit filed in 2001 by Birgit Koebke and Kendall French of San Diego.

Undisputed in the case is that the country club refused to treat French as Koebke's spouse when it came to accessing the club's full benefits. Under the country club's policy, unmarried members are entitled to bring guests to the golf course for \$40-\$75 a game once every two months, while married members can bring their spouses to the golf course without restriction and free of charge. Additionally, only spouses can inherit their partners' financial interest in the club.

At issue is whether a policy that treats people differently on the basis of their marital status is allowed under the Unruh Civil Rights Act, California's nondiscrimination code, which mandates that all persons within the jurisdiction of the state are "entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever."

The Unruh Act has been used successfully to prohibit sexual orientation and sex discrimination. Thus, according to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is representing the couple in the case, much of the debate focuses on whether businesses may exclude all unmarried persons from their services at a time when California does not extend marriage rights to same-sex couples.



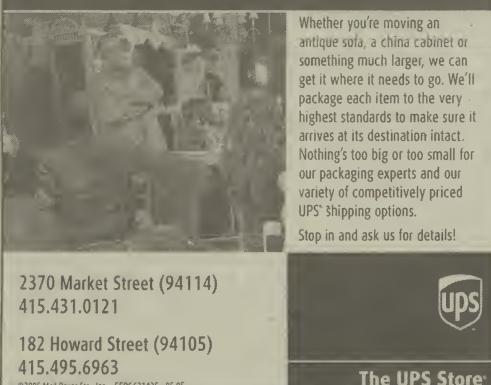
Plaintiffs B. Birgit Koebke, left, and Kendall French talk with reporters outside the California Supreme Court last Thursday.

legislative amendments and previous court decisions that in his view prohibited marital status discrimination under the Unruh Act. Davidson also argued that sex and sexual orientation discrimination occurs whenever businesses use selective policies that by default exclude this entire class of people.

Rosen argued that the Unruh Act "requires intentional discrimination," adding that the statewide domestic partner registry that provides businesses with a way to distinguish between couples and friends "was not around" in 1987, the year that the club's policy took effect.

A ruling from the court is expected within 90 days. Interestingly, a ruling in the couple's favor, depending on what issues the court chooses to address, could work against the legal case for same-sex marriage in California, Davidson told reporters. If the court finds illegal discrimination occurred against the couple, such a ruling could help to support Attorney General Bill Lockyer's argument against gay marriage that the state already grants equal rights to domestic partners. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Rice addresses gay rights in SF visit

by Matthew S. Bajko

In a speech at Davies Symphony Hall, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice defended the Bush administration's policies in the Middle East and pushed for the nomination of John Bolton as the United States ambassador to the United Nations.

Speaking before a meeting of the Commonwealth Club Friday May 27, Rice also urged Congress to pass a stalled free trade agreement with Latin America, and in response to a question, urged countries to uphold the civil rights of their gay citizens.

Rice's visit was met with anti-war demonstrators outside on the street and her prepared remarks were interrupted by three protesters in the audience who stood on their seats dressed in black capes and hoods, mirroring the photos of abused and tortured Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison.

As police arrested the protesters, who chanted "Stop the killing, stop the suicide, USA out of Iraq," Rice responded by saying "Ladies and gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen, it is a wonderful thing that people can speak their minds. And it is a good thing that they can now do so in Baghdad."

Audience members applauded her remarks with a standing ovation.

Her overall message in the speech was one of defending the Bush administration's policies in the Middle East as well as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"For 60 years that we have had a policy of essentially ignoring the 'freedom deficit' in the Middle East and in the broader Middle East was giving us neither stability nor democracy. And so from our point of view, there isn't a conflict between national security and the promotion of democracy; they are one and the same," she said.

When asked about Senate opposition to Bolton's confirmation, Rice responded that he is the right



Sec. of State Condoleezza Rice

that matters is that you are a citizen of that country. And indeed, we note that in countries that are democratic, in countries where there can be pressure on government, in countries where there can be checks and balances on government, then the rights and the rights of the most vulnerable in society tend to be more protected."

Rice added that whenever she has discussions with these countries, she does talk about human rights, pointing to her department's human rights report it issues every year.

She noted that the report "talks about the human rights conditions in each country and so very much in line with the notion that every citizen needs to be represented and rights protected. We believe that this is the way to handle this situation."

While Rice may be pushing other countries on upholding gay rights, at home the Bush administration continues to push antigay policies such as a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, appointing antigay judges to the federal courts, and attacking workplace protections for federal government employees.

Rosalyn Montgomery, executive director of Transgenders United for Equality, joined the protests outside Rice's speech because "of the way [Bush's] people try to take away the rights of the community. They are trying to keep people like me from finding the person I want to love. They have no right to do that."

Writing in his blog, gay activist Michael Petrelis noted that the response from Rice on gay rights embodied both good and bad things.

"First, on the positive side, I am amazed any member of President Bush's cabinet endorses tolerant societies that include democratic ideals that extend to all people, regardless of sexual orientation," wrote Petrelis. "However, Rice's words are mere crumbs tossed at a local audience." ▼

49ers fumble with training tape

by Ed Walsh

The National Center for Lesbian Rights is drafting a letter to the San Francisco 49ers front office condemning a 49ers diversity training video that included lesbian pornography in a spoof about gay marriage.

"It's pretty amazing," said NCLR's Helen Carroll who established the Homophobia in Sport Project. "It shows a bigger picture of a problem in the entire NFL."

Carroll said her letter will include a number of suggestions for the how the 49ers should address the controversy. Among those suggestions, Carroll said it is important for the team to clearly and unambiguously state that the video was a mistake.

"Humor is an important part of getting people to tune in," Carroll said, "but this is over the edge and inappropriate."

The 15-minute video, posted on the San Francisco Chronicle's SFGate.com Web site, was shown to players by now ex-49ers public relations director Kirk Reynolds.



Courtesy San Francisco Chronicle

Kirk Reynolds huddles with topless women at the Mitchell Brothers club in the team training video.

The apparent intention of the tape was to show players how to deal with the media in a city as diverse as San Francisco. In the video, Reynolds impersonates Mayor Gavin Newsom as he officiates a topless lesbian wedding in the Mitchell Brothers' O'Farrell Theater. The women grope each other on the floor.

The video was shown to players last year as a follow-up to a diversity workshop organized by Reynolds in the wake of a 2002

antigay comment made by running back Garrison Hearst, according to the Chronicle. The tape broke the story on Wednesday, June 1, after being sent the video anonymously.

The 49ers lawyer, Ed Goines, did not return the Bay Area Reporter's call by press time, but he told the Chronicle that he found the tape "completely inappropriate."

Newsom quickly spoke out against the tape, telling reporters on Wednesday that it was offensive to gays, lesbians, women, and the Chinese community. The tape includes 49ers trainer George Chung with buck teeth and speaking in a stereotypical Chinese accent.

The tape quickly became fodder for talk radio, with some suggesting the negative reaction was overblown.

LGBT Community Center Executive Director Thom Lynch, however, said the tape was "outrageous" and said a "top to bottom examination of the organization" is necessary. ▼

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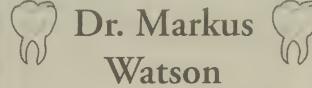
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Milk Club salutes leaders



The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club held its annual dinner and awards presentation May 25. At left, club President Greg Shaw presents Steve Shubert with the volunteer of the year award. Others who were recognized included Marilyn Wann; Unite Here Local 2, the hotel workers' union; Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco); Equality California Executive Director Geoffrey Kors; Human Rights Commissioner Cecilia Chung; Karlyn Lotney, aka Fairy Butch; and And Castro For All.

GAPA 'Coming of Age' event Fri.

compiled by Cynthia Laird

The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance will present its *Coming of Age: GAM in America*, a multimedia arts exhibition on what it means to be gay and American among those who are of Asian and Pacific Islander descent at a gala reception Friday, June 3 at 7 p.m. at SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street in San Francisco. Admission is free; the event includes refreshments, a silent auction, and an informal program celebrating the queer API community as Pride Month kicks off.

In addition to appearances by Mr. and Miss GAPA, the GAPA Men's Chorus, and other special guests, the event also will mark the unveiling of G:2006, the new calendar produced by GAPA and featuring winners of the organization's nationwide photo competition. Dedicated to gay API artists and subject matter, the arts exhibition and calendar are intended to be seen as a collaborative, community-based project. GAPA's goal is to promote cultural diversity within both the larger API population in the U.S. and the mainstream LGBT community.

Coming of Age is being presented in association with the Queer Cultural Center as part of the National Queer Arts Festival. The exhibit is being produced in association with Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center as part of this year's United States of Asian Festival.

For more information, visit www.gapa.org or e-mail calendar@gapa.org.

Out & Equal breakfast

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, a San Francisco-based national organization, is hosting its next "power breakfast" Friday, June 3, from 8 to 9:45 a.m. at KPMG, 55 Second Street in downtown San Francisco. A panel discussion entitled "Breaking the Lavender Ceiling" will feature LGBT professionals discussing their experiences of coming out in the business world and offer their advice on career advancement for LGBT employees. Panelists include Timothy A.A. Stiles, a partner at KPMG, and Linda Sonntag, Ph.D., of Life Sciences and Healthcare Industries.

Reservations are required as space is limited. E-mail rsvpoutandequal@aol.com or call

(415) 503-1375. There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

TARC holds 'Trannyweek' events

The Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center is hosting its fourth annual "Trannyweek" from June 6-10 with the theme "Under the Umbrella: Celebrating the Transgender Spectrum."

The weeklong free community celebration will be hosted by TARC, located at 183-191 Golden

Gate Avenue in San Francisco, and includes afternoon workshops, discussions, films, food, and entertainment. The week kicks off with a panel discussion Monday at 3:30 p.m. that will include guests Michael Cooley of the Stop AIDS Project; Steven Tierney, director of HIV prevention for the health department; and Sherri Thomas of the Ark of Refuge.

On Tuesday, JoAnne Keatley, with the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco, will present a workshop entitled "Transgenders, Culture, and Sex" and that evening TARC will host a free makeover workshop, "Salon de Maquillage," with stylists and makeup artists donated by Vidal Sassoon and Kryolan makeup.

A film presentation and transgender tea party take place Wednesday, with trans historian Miss Major talking about transgenders in the Tenderloin and HIV prevention strategies for men on the down low. Thursday's event features Thomas Noble, who will present a workshop on issues around HIV-positive status and disclosure to partners. In the afternoon, "TG Advocacy at City Hall" takes place at the HIV Prevention Planning Council's monthly meeting. Friday will feature a work and education fair with representatives from City College and the Positive Resource Center. The closing celebration will include cash prizes for the best tranny performance with an HIV prevention message.

For a complete schedule, visit www.tarc.org.

Exploring the biology of homosexuality

The Commonwealth Club of San Francisco will explore the topic of the biology of homosexuality in a panel discussion scheduled for Wednesday, June 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the club's headquarters located at 595 Market Street, 2nd floor, in San Francisco.

Panelists include Dr. Eric Vilain, an expert in the genetics of sexual development at the University of California, Los Angeles; Joan Roughgarden, Ph.D., professor of evolutionary ecology and geophysics at Stanford; and Tom Boellstorff, Ph.D., an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of California, Irvine. The forum, developed for the non-scientific community, will include a question and answer period. The focus of the evening will be looking at the nation's current culture wars that are saturated with rhetoric as to whether LGBT people have made a "choice" or whether their sexual orientation is biologically determined. Panelists will examine the current evidence for a biological explanation of homosexuality in humans and possible evolutionary reasons for homosexuality in diverse species.

Admission is free for Commonwealth Club members and \$15 for non-members. Reservations can be made by calling (415) 597-6705. For more information, visit www.commonwealthclub.org.

SFPD Pride benefit

The San Francisco Police Officer's Pride Alliance will host its annual benefit Thursday, June 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Mighty, 119 Utah Street in San Francisco. The event is a fundraiser for the Officer Jon C. Cook Scholarship Fund. Cook, 39, was killed in the line of duty on June 12, 2002 in a collision involving two police vehicles while responding to a call for assistance from another officer.

The Pride Alliance event will honor fundraiser Peter Poulos and community social maven Donna Sachet, as well as Sergeant Chuck Lambert and Officer Lisa Frazer.

Tickets for the event are \$75 per person.

Haight Ashbury clinic benefit

Since the "Summer of Love" in 1967, the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics have saved and transformed countless lives in San Francisco and the agency will celebrate its 38th anniversary with a dinner and auction Thursday, June 9 starting at 6 p.m. at the San Francisco Marriott, 55 4th Street in San Francisco. The event will provide an opportunity for supporters to help the agency, which provides free comprehensive health care that is non-judgmental and culturally sensitive.

Tickets for the event start at \$150 per person. Those interested in attending should call Laurie Earp at (510) 839-3100. To make a donation to the clinic, visit www.hacfci.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LYRIC to honor 'Champions'

by Kevin Davis

elivering 17 years of offering support for queer youth, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center has come of age in the Castro and invites the community to help mark the occasion.

LYRIC's annual "Champions Awards" fundraising party and alumni reunion honors its civil rights allies and advocates Thursday, June 9 at its event in San Francisco.

"We have found, in 16 or 17 years, so many people in positions of leadership running organizations and community activists came through LYRIC," said Gayle Roberts, who manages grants and publicity for the organization.

"Champions is our opportunity to honor LGBTIQ youth leaders and allies who dare to make a difference in the face of homophobia and bigotry," said LYRIC Executive Director Kar Yin Tham, who steps down July 8 after several years at the helm.

In 1988, city native and current Oakland-based installation artist Donna Ozawa and then-college recreation management major Beth Kivel initiated peer-led rap groups in a room rented from Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. Now a paid staff and small army of youth volunteers provides academic tutoring, career training, a health clinic, and arts and media programs at the agency's own offices at 127 Collingwood Street in the Castro.

Honored at next week's event is Alexander L. Lee, University of California, Berkeley law school graduate who founded the TGI Justice Project to end human rights abuses and advocate alternatives to incarceration for mainly low-income transgender, gender variant, and intersex people of color in California's prisons and jails.

Currently the project is educating and building public support to end sexual and other abuses against female to male prisoners, who are mostly pre-operative



RICK GERLMAYER
Joshua Donatto, left, will be honored by LYRIC at its awards event next week. He's shown here with Carolyn Laub of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network when he helped organize a marriage equality event at his school earlier this year.

and housed primarily in men's prisons.

"Some of them have been on hormones for decades. It's all done by genitalia," said Lee, referring to how inmates are housed in correctional facilities.

A 1997 public health study found 65 percent of trans women have spent time incarcerated.

Lee said that job discrimination, school bullying, and family abandonment, along with marginal housing, poverty, and racism leads transgenders to resort to sex work and drug use to survive.

"Being a target and facing discrimination, they commit survival crimes," said Lee, 27, who is transgender.

The TGI Justice Project shares Oakland office space with its fiscal sponsor, the prisoner's rights organization Justice Now. Its six-member volunteer board of directors is comprised completely of transgender and intersex prisoners and former prisoners.

A Champion award also will be presented to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of San Francisco-East Bay, one of the national organization's largest

chapters, which brings a grassroots approach to making schools safe for LGBTIQ youth.

GLEN packages staff training and peer education materials together, working within school districts to proactively empower educators, administrators, and school boards to build a strong and sustained local relationship within schools. The local chapter has reached 4,000 Bay Area young people in the past two years.

Many educators still fear parents who might resist discussions on homosexuality, "confusing issues of behavior and identity and freaking out," said GLEN's Julie Lienert. "Teachers and administrators don't feel supported by the administration if they say anything about LGBT issues. Several parent groups are opposed to AB537 [a safe-schools law] and any kind of discussion."

Gay educators, only a few of whom are out to their students, are unsure how to respond to name-calling, Lienert said.

"Even in the Bay Area, sadly, there is still a certain cultural acceptance, saying that's okay. It's so

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Sacked!

The San Francisco 49ers learned absolutely nothing from Garrison ("Homophobe") Hearst's infamous antigay slur a few years ago. The former 49ers running back in the fall of 2002 told a columnist, "Aww, hell no! I don't want any faggots on my team." He later apologized and the team's owners, John and Denise DeBartolo York, did some damage control by visiting bars in the Castro and assuring folks that they would take steps to address the situation by requiring diversity training for the team as part of its off-season preparations.

Now comes word about what this so-called training entailed. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Wednesday that a 15-minute video was made, ostensibly to teach players how to deal with the city's "diverse" populations and the media. And what a lesson it is. From degrading stereotypes of Asian Americans to girl-on-girl sex to mocking the gay weddings that took place in the city last year, the tape is now causing one major headache in the 49ers' front office. Even Mayor Gavin Newsom wasn't spared. His staff gave permission to the organization to use his office as a backdrop, with now-ex-PR man Kirk Reynolds filling the role as "mayor," on the understanding that it was for a training film. When the *Chronicle* showed the tape to the mayor, he couldn't even finish watching it. "OK — that's enough," he reportedly said after watching a lesbian wedding scene filmed at the Mitchell Brothers' O'Farrell Theater that was officiated by "Mayor" Reynolds. "I know the courts say we can't do this," Reynolds says in the film, "but like my predecessor, we make our own rules here in San Francisco."

Team lawyer Ed Goines denounced the video, telling the *Chronicle* that it "is absolutely contradictory to the ideals and values of the San Francisco 49ers." That's a start, but there are other issues that need to be addressed.

With the rampant homophobia present in professional sports, some real diversity training is in order — and it should start at the top

of the 49ers' organization. We know many of the players probably got a kick out of the 49ers video, and that's a big part of what's wrong with the National Football League (and other sports organizations) today. There's a lax attitude that's pervasive in sports across the country. It gives lip service to diversity and winks at sexism and homophobic attitudes. In the Hearst case, the requisite apology was made, but it was just window dressing — nothing changed, as evidenced by this videotape.

Gay players only come out after retirement — if at all — and the few who have taken that brave step have made it abundantly clear that the prevailing climate in the locker room is not conducive to being open about one's sexual orientation. There are

gays in professional sports, and they deserve the same respect as their heterosexual counterparts. They don't deserve to be subjected to watching a lame video that pushes stereotypes, and the other players don't either.

The irony in all of this is that the video, which was shown to players last year, was part of the 49ers' official response to the fallout from the Hearst controversy. The reality is that the team needs to start from scratch in its efforts to promote diversity and tolerance.

After the team's dismal 2-14 season last year, new coach Mike Nolan has his work cut out for him on the football field; and, while the tape was made and shown to players before he took over the team, Nolan can't fumble and must make clear he won't stand for this garbage. ▼

Editorial



Past meets present at Badlands

by L. Julius M. Turman

Trends in music, clothing, and attitudes seem to die only to return as retro-chic. We welcome the return of some things, as they give us the opportunity to improve. Others shock us, exemplifying reactive and retrograde thinking. On April 26, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission issued its findings, reviewed and approved by the city attorney's office that SF Badlands had discriminated on the basis of race in employment and public accommodation. What is more appalling is that Les Natali has chosen to wage war by hiding behind a legal argument that was exposed as racially-motivated and summarily dismissed by the U.S. Supreme Court more than 40 years ago in the midst of another, much larger, civil rights investigation. But even with the resurrection of this sinister tactic, there is an equally available opportunity to use bad precedent to move further toward greater social progress.

Mr. Natali objects to the HRC's investigatory process because he allegedly did not receive constitutional due process protections. This is ridiculous. In 1960, Louisiana segregationists used a similar argument that Mr. Natali now advances today. At that time, segregationists hoped to forestall the Federal Civil Rights Commission from investigating allegations that black voters were being deprived of their constitutional right to vote in Louisiana on account of their race. So, they — like Mr. Natali 40 years later — argued that they had the right to confront witnesses against them during the investigation.

The United States Supreme Court, in the case of *Hannah v. Larche*, held that fact-finding investigations require the opportunity to respond to allegations and be heard. Yet as importantly, the court ruled there is no right to appraisal, confrontation, and cross-examination because these administrative bodies are acting as independent

fact-finders regarding racism claims. It is absurd that now, more than 40 years later, the same objections would resurface in a cynical ploy to try and render void the factual findings of the HRC and to hinder its ability more generally to investigate local charges of discrimination.

The bottom line is that the HRC's role is to investigate. It does not issue orders, indict, or punish. The HRC does not hold trials, but can form the basis for action by other administrative entities. In accordance with due process rights, the HRC gave Mr. Natali more than a fair opportunity to be heard and respond. After which, the facts demonstrated that SF Badlands has a long-standing practice of discriminating against African American patrons and applicants for employment.

It is not the function of the HRC to levy a punishment against Mr. Natali or SF Badlands. The duty to issue just penalties belongs to regulatory agencies, such as the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control and the San Francisco Entertainment Commission. As the San Francisco Administrative Code authorizes, the HRC was correct in furnishing its findings to other public agencies, such as the ABC and the EC, to further the objective of eliminating prejudice and discrimination.

The ABC and the EC have a responsibility to do what the HRC cannot do, which is to impose legal sanctions in accordance with their own policies and guidelines. The ABC's penalty guidelines (available at www.abc.ca.gov) for instance, maintain that a crime of moral turpitude (meaning a depraved or inherent act of baseness, which would include racial discrimination) calls for revocation of a liquor license. In the 1950s, the ABC used moral turpitude violations as a means to arbitrarily harass, suspend, and shut down gay bars. We've come full circle, as laws that were once used to be-

rate LGBT persons now must ameliorate their past by ridding us of damaging social animus.

Acts that interfere with the free exercise of a person's rights or privileges under state or federal law are crimes under California Penal Code. As racial discrimination violates rights under the Fair Employment and Housing and public accommodations laws, the findings of the HRC, in the hands of regulatory authorities, must lead to a process that can and should result in penalties of revocation of licensure or worse. Make no mistake about it: Racial discrimination to the degree found by the HRC against Mr. Natali and SF Badlands is not just a civil wrong, but in the hands of the local and state regulators, rises to the level of a crime.

The situation we face today, as a community, is filled with ironies:

First, that Mr. Natali would dare to revive the segregationist argument used to oppress the rights of black people, more than 40 years later; and second, that laws which once harmed LGBT persons now, finally, will benefit our community by protecting some of our most vulnerable members. It is indeed an offensive notion that someone would be deprived of their due process right, but do not be fooled. This is not the case in the matter at hand. We as a community must recognize the lessons of the past in this present situation. Simply put, we must reject that which would pull us back to an unconscionable era and strongly advocate for revocations that would propel us toward the elimination of discrimination and toward a more fair, just, and inclusive society. ▼

Guest Opinion

L. Julius M. Turman is an attorney who is representing the complainants in the Badlands case.

LETTERS

Get a grip

As a gay non-union employee of one of the hotels involved in the union nightmare, I think GLAAD and other groups voicing concern over workers rights need to get a grip of the real issue ("GLAAD moves awards," May 26).

The boycott is not over health care, it is over the ability to organize workers in other hotels without a government-supervised secret ballot election, that in my mind takes away from workers' rights to decide – you must become a union member, no choice for the workers. The only thing that is good for is the union – more union dues. Where else can you work only 32 hours a month, yes a month, and get full benefits? Non-union members need to work a minimum of 32 hours a week to get benefits. Where else can you have a \$10 co-pay at an emergency room? No wonder the employer pays approximately \$800 per month per qualified employee.

The hotels have offered a contract that will provide full healthcare plan benefits for which employees would qualify by working only 45 hours per month, and have committed to covering the annual health-care plan cost increases that the union estimated were needed to keep monthly contributions at the current low level. In addition, the hotels agreed to double to \$4,000 the annual cap allowance on prescription drugs, proposed to continue funding pension benefits, and to continue to help pay for child and elder care.

This is not about workers' rights, the union does not care a damn about their members, apart from collection union dues, and this is all about a process called card-check neutrality – increasing their membership without the workers being able to vote on the issue and dragging their membership into other battles in 2006



Michael Fowler
San Francisco

Thanks, GLAAD

Thank you GLAAD for recognizing the right thing to do and acting on it. And thank you to Mark Leno, Bevan Dufty, "my mayor," and all the other community leaders who recognized this problem and the impact it would have on gay and lesbian union members across our city. I am an AFL-CIO union member at a major bankrupt airline here in San Francisco, and as everyone knows we are in our own fight for what's left of our jobs, so I am particularly sensitive to the plight of Local 2 and to the climate of corporate "union busting" that is becoming the norm all around the country.

I am very proud of our community and all that it represents – and during Pride Month to boot.

Sheba, Absolute Empress XXXIV
San Francisco

Badlands pickets

So a letter writer last week (*Mailstrom*, May 26) thinks that picketers outside Badlands on Saturday nights are a "loudmouth pack of activists" and "outside agitators" who have nothing better to do.

The Human Rights Commission has found that Badlands discriminated against African Americans. The city attorney has signed off on that finding. Hundreds of concerned grassroots queers and straights, four supervisors (Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, Sophie Maxwell, and Ross Mirkarimi), former board President Matt Gonzalez, members of Local 2, etc. have all joined us on that picket line. A loudmouth pack of activists who "don't enjoy mainstream support?"

When we "PC wannabes" organized those early 1970s gay Pride marches, when we pushed cities to enact gay rights legislation, we were called spoilsports by the more conservative gays who were fearful of rocking the boat. When Harvey Milk first ran for office, much of the city's gay political establishment thought he was a loser and didn't support him.

Those of us who are outside Badlands on Saturday nights have a dream: that the Castro can be a place for everybody. That people of all races and ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, classes, body types, abilities, economic levels, homeless and housed, etc., can come together in a true rainbow nation. That we can show the rest of the world how it's done.

If that's being a "cheap date," as the letter writer asserts, then I'm proud to have been one for nearly 35 years.

Tommi Avicoli Mecca
San Francisco

Missing the mark

Bill Barnes's column in last week's issue makes a mess of Jack Davis's sad claim that the ongoing pickets at Badlands are for "those with nothing better to do" (*Barnestorming*, May 26). Surely Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, the other leaders listed in Barnes's column, and the leaders and members of the other LGBT, African American, and labor organizations supporting the Badlands boycott – including the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Equality California, GAP, and many others, over 30 in all – have some-

thing better to do on a Saturday night. More likely, they're outraged by Natali's law-breaking and deceitful tactics.

Even so, Barnes misses the mark when he says, "here's hoping Les Natali and And Castro for All can work something out to bring this dispute to an end." This isn't a dispute between Natali and And Castro for All or any of the other organizations outraged by his behavior. This is a matter wherein a bar owner has been found by the city and county of San Francisco to be in violation of civil rights laws. Instead of urging community members to dialogue with a law breaker, Barnes and others should direct their concern to the Board of Supervisors and to the city's Entertainment Commission, which is entrusted with reviewing the Human Rights Commission's finding and levying a proper penalty. And the real question here is: why isn't the city doing its job to enforce civil rights law?

Daniel Frattin
San Francisco

Boycott has wide support

Who is Jack Davis and why did he write a letter to the *B.A.R.* last week belittling the people boycotting Badlands – described in Bill Barnes's political column as "a who's who of LGBT leaders" – as a bunch of losers "with nothing better to do"? Jack Davis

is a high-powered political consultant. His deliberately misleading characterization of the people trying to hold Mr. Natali accountable for breaking the law is part of a strategy to distract attention away from the city's findings of discrimination at Badlands.

Who are the so-called mob of zealots who support the boycott of Badlands?

To date, three city Supervisors have joined the picket line outside of Badlands, plus former Supervisor Matt Gonzalez. They've been in good company, marching next to leaders from the Alice B. Toklas and Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic clubs, the San Francisco Green Party, the San Francisco Young Democrats, the LGBT Community Center – actually, leaders and members from 30 national and local organizations in all.

In the weeks since the city's Human Rights Commission officially confirmed that discrimination has taken place at Badlands over the course of the past several years, Mr. Natali has launched a smear campaign against the complainants, their community allies, the city's civil rights agency, and now, its political and community leadership.

The city's LGBT and political leaders haven't given up their Saturday nights to boycott Badlands out of boredom. They're on the street every Saturday night because they're outraged by what Les Natali has done, and continues to do, and want him held accountable.

Paul Mooney
San Francisco

Crusading for the Castro

I was walking in the Castro the other day. The sun was out, the day was beautiful. It made me recall the days of long gone past. A time when there was a reason to be on Castro. But unfortunately I then looked at eye level, then street level and my smile turned upside down and ended up asking myself, what happened? It would appear the once Victorian beauty had turned a dull shade of a tragic melancholy demise. In the 1980s, I used to work on Castro Street. But my walk made me realize how life had changed in the Castro. Back when I worked on the street, there was a sense of pride. We worked with other merchants to steam clean the front of our store fronts, clean the glass on the windows, create fun and interesting window displays, and most importantly to hire sales people with some personality. The mission statement was quite simple: To always remember how unique the Castro is in the world and to work diligently to keep it in some way sparkling. But in 2005, that mission statement is obviously a thing of the past.

Maybe we need to elect a mayor of Castro Street. The late Harvey Milk worked on the street because he believed in the street. But until then, I challenge all the shop owners of Castro to add some paint and upkeep every few years to make our 'hood look like something we could be proud of again. Clean your sidewalks. Wash your windows. And smile. You want business in your stores? It starts with you and your salespeople. A smile admits an entry, an attitude turns it away.

The Castro needs to find a way to revive its pride, to believe in itself again. Because before the neighborhood believes in itself again, no patron will ever believe in the merchants' status, be that a mom and pop store or a corporate entity. And that very "self" belief is something a merchant so desperately needs to prosper and pay attention to in order to be profitable. So, to all Castro merchants – take back your street. It needs to be embraced as a piece of history that is thriving, not one, that in its current state looks to be barely surviving.

Tom Finan
San Francisco

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POLITICS

The politics of Pride

by Bill Barnes

With June upon us, it seems LGBT Pride is just around the corner. In many cities, the event has transformed from an activist march into a combination marketing opportunity, circuit party, and apolitical street fair. I can understand the maturation of the community, but it begs the question: how much is too much?

Hope for Pride as an event that advances our community's political agenda springs eternal. In São Paulo last Sunday, organizers estimate 2 million people participated in Pride festivities; police said 1.8 million. What's the message from Brazil? **Pedro Almeida**, a spokesman, said, "[T]his shows true support for our cause, that of civil unions of people of the same sex." From an event started in 1997 with 2,000 participants, the São Paulo event Sunday kicked off a campaign to pass civil unions in South America's largest country.

Los Angeles organizers, on the other hand, announced heiress **Paris Hilton** and her mother **Kathy** are that city's Pride Parade grand marshals. A guest column in the *Advocate* summed up the whole mess this way: "[Hilton] is whiny, self-indulgent, and self-absorbed, and her only claim to fame is that she's a party girl who has had great Internet sex. Wait, maybe she is the perfect role model for gay pride."

Now, if you're concerned that grand marshal Paris Hilton and an entertainment lineup featuring **Debbie Gibson** and **Tiffany** marginalize the role Pride plays in advancing our political agenda, don't fret. L.A. Pride organizers feature a letter from another entertainer, Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** on their Web site.

In announcing the Hilton decision, L.A. Pride President **Rodney Scott** claims Hilton and her mom "know what it's like to be different, or what it's like when people don't understand who they are." The only thing I have a hard time understanding is exactly when Hilton starts eating at Carl's Jr. With 1,030 calories and enough cholesterol to keep cardiac surgeons in business for decades, the burger Hilton is pushing in a new sexy TV commercial clearly can't be something she eats regularly.

If you thought Carl's Jr. was some liberal corporation, though, you'd be wrong. Carl's Jr. owner, **Carl Karcher**, is a devout Catholic who used to lead board meetings in prayer and regularly contributes to conservative causes. That's not enough for **L. Brent Bozell**, the head of the Parents' Television Council, which, according to Mediawatch, is responsible for 99 percent of all 2003 and 2004 complaints to the Federal Communications Commission about indecency. Not



Paris Hilton splices up a new burger in the Carl's Jr. commercial

surprisingly, PTC is angry about the Hilton ad. You've gotta love the response from Carl's Jr. CEO **Andy Puzder**: "This is an attempt to sell hamburgers. Get a grip."

Show me the money

They say that money is the mother's milk of politics. That's why former Sacramento real estate developer and state Treasurer **Phil Angelides** (D) spent four years raising money for his governor's campaign. At the end of last year, Angelides had \$12 million on hand. Now, along comes former eBay executive and current state Controller **Steve Westly** (D). With one stroke of the pen, Westly infused his exploratory committee

with \$10 million, and there's more where that came from. It looks like the Democratic nominee for governor's going to have to earn it. Westly, by the way, is hosting house parties across California on June 18 to make some undisclosed (but pretty obvious) announcement.

Meanwhile, our own Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D) will be kicking off his third and final campaign for Assembly on Wednesday, June 8 at 6 p.m. at Club Mighty, 119 Utah Street. Tickets for the event start at \$100. The 2008 Assembly race (after Leno is termed out) is going to be a doozy, but for now we can all be united in supporting our local representative as he works to bring San Francisco values to Sacramento.

This is the time of Sacramento's season where the money flows out, in terms of funding for various legislative priorities. That's why state Senator **Carole Migden** (D) is a political powerhouse as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she helps decide which bills move forward and which bills hit the circular file. Even though Migden broke Senate tradition as the first freshman to chair the powerful committee, she's keeping certain customs alive. As of late, the Senate Appropriations Committee hands out T-shirts as they're considering (read: killing) bills. This year's design is "Approps Motel," a hot pink number with a rendering of a hotel sort of like the movie *Psycho*. Given the state's budget crunch, Migden used

campaign funds to produce the shirts.

In other words

At the City Democratic Club meeting, former San Mateo County Supervisor and current state Senate hopeful **Mike Nevin** (D) offered up an excellent idea to increase medical privacy. Nevin worked with state Senator **Jackie Speier** (D-San Francisco/Hillsborough) on financial privacy legislation a few years back, and now thinks laws reigning in banks should also apply to HMOs. Nevin correctly said that HMOs using medical data to determine who lives and who dies is one of California's greatest problems. That fight with the HMOs is gonna be a bruiser.

Longtime CNN fixture **Judy Woodruff** announced she's leaving, and it looks as if *Inside Politics* may be shelved. I guess we still have **Anderson Cooper**. Decisions like that and canceling *Crossfire* shed light on why so many people are flocking to Fox News.

This weekend, the California Democratic Council hosts its annual gathering for Democratic activists in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. The featured speaker is my friend, former candidate for DNC chair **Donnie Fowler**. Fowler, who delivered one of the bright spots last November as the Michigan state coordinator for Kerry-Edwards, is one of the party's best strategists. The CDC event runs from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at The Park, 747 3rd Street, near SBC Park. The program and Fowler's remarks are scheduled for about 5:15 p.m.

Finally, by the time you read this the mayor's budget will be out. While all the numbers aren't available yet, one thing is sure. This is the fourth year in a row that the mayor's office has proposed cutting AIDS programs, and the wildly popular Continuum day program closed in part as a result of the city's budget situation. While I think we're in good hands with Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, the community must remain vigilant to ensure these lifesaving programs are protected. More on this next week. ▼

Bill Barnes is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is billbarnessf@hotmail.com.

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Time to travel

by Katharine Holland

Yes, summer is almost here. The Speedos are out in full force in shop windows along Castro Street. Tanning and waxing appointments have been made. If you are lucky and have survived the economy and your vacation budget stretches past a weekend at the Russian River, then check out www.frenchescapade.com. (A good friend just returned from a stay in Paris, where he had some escapades of his own, but that is another story!)

You have probably met **French Escapade** owner Jacqueline "Jac" Grandchamps, Ph.D., at country dancing or French potlucks, where she is always friendly and welcoming to all (and a good dancer, too). I was invited to a trip she organized a few years ago for horseback riding and camping at a lesbian ranch a few hours away — what fun! Her hospitality is now extending to escorting women and men to France.

Experience the authentic French culture in this unforgettable diversified escorted tour for small groups of six, from the Alps to Provence; you will stay every night in her 19th century country house at the edge of the Alps where your French host will prepare breakfasts and four-course dinners. Every day, with your bilingual guide, you will discover villages and towns, Roman ruins, castles, the breathtaking Mont Blanc, and taste local products like wine, chocolate, cheese, and liqueurs. There is a special trip to the International Classic Music Festival, too.

"The trips are either for women only, men only or for both. It is up to the first person that signs up for the tour to decide why type of tour (s)he prefers," Grandchamps said. Discover France another way and contact Grandchamps at (510) 483-5713.

Kimpton Hotels is launching gay and lesbian Pride packages at 24 hotels in 14 cities including Boston, New Orleans, New York, and San Francisco. Kimpton Hotels was selected as one of the 10 best companies for gay and lesbian employees by **Advocate** magazine. Visit www.kimptonhotels.com.

**Business Briefs**

Breathtaking Mont Blanc, the heart of the Alps

Photo Credit

Buying trip insurance? **Travel Guard International** has announced it now includes same-sex domestic partners in its definition of family members. The change means that gay and lesbian travelers are eligible for reimbursement of trip cancellation or trip interruption expenses associated with a covered illness or injury suffered by their domestic partner. Call (800) 826-4919 or visit www.travel-guard.com.

I found these statistics from **Community Marketing Inc.** (2003) interesting:

Ninety-seven percent of gay and lesbians traveled on vacation in the past year (versus the national average of 64 percent).

Eighty-four percent hold valid passports (versus the national average of 29 percent).

Castro news

The models wrapped in the American flag for the **Gay.com** billboards and advertisements are our own local boys **Blair Shepard** and **Cliff Kohler**. From what I hear the topless ads have stirred up more than just interest amongst gay men. Gay.com is hearing from many who object to using the flag as clothing.

A gay and lesbian consumer online census that studies the demographics and lifestyles of about 8,000 gay and lesbian consumers released a study that highlights leading brands for gay consumers.

Two local magazines **Girlfriends**, published by **Heather Findlay**, and **Curve**, published by **Frances "Franco" Stevens** tied as #2 on the list of the "Top Gay-Themed Magazines for Women." Not bad for our local lesbians!

Free wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) can be accessed indoors and outdoors along the commercial segment of Castro Street thanks to the Sunnyvale firm **AnchorFree Wireless**. The company's vision is to bring affordable ways to access the Internet to the public. Earlier

this year, they launched the free service in the Marina.

Happy anniversary!

Nick and **Sophia Vlahiotis**, owners of **Ristorante Capri Pizza** at 2272 Market (at Noe), celebrate 20 years of business this month. That is a lot of pizza and pasta. And a long time for a straight couple to be doing business in the Castro! Nick grew up in Zakynthos and Sophia in Messini, both in Greece. They met and married in Athens, then moved to the U.S. in 1983. After graduating from San Francisco State as business majors, they opened the restaurant. They have two children: Maria, 24, and Bill, 20. Call Capri at (415) 552-3000.



David Perry

Long-time communications and public relations pro **David Perry** celebrated his 2.5 year anniversary in his Flood Building digs recently with a special "WOW" party, his ongoing after-work networking fete (and what a way to introduce everyone to his family — visiting from Virginia for the first time). Perry's growing firm also celebrated becoming **David Perry & Associates Inc.** with three full-time and five part-time associates, including himself and husband **Alfredo Casuso**.

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Straight down the aisle

by Paula Martinac

In a few days, my partner, Katie, and I will be driving almost 1,000 miles roundtrip to attend a niece's wedding; two months later, we'll make the same trip for a second niece's nuptials. I wish I could feel excited about these occasions, but the politically minded lesbian in me simply can't. Oh, I love wedding cake as much as the next person, and I'm happy for the young couples. But it would be nice to hear one or both of our nieces say, "Until my lesbian aunts have the right to get legally married in this country, I won't be walking down the aisle either."

Obviously, that's a fantasy, the kind of heart-wrenching pronouncement that only gets made on *Queer as Folk* by over-the-top PFLAG mom Debbie Novotny. In real life, few straight people would ever consider such a bold move. Indeed, few people, straight or gay, ever put their own rights and happiness on hold to make political points about the discrimination of others. I seriously doubt, for example, that many white Freedom Riders postponed getting married back in the days when interracial couples couldn't legally do so.

Of course, even my *wishing* that our nieces would take such a pro-gay stand could be construed as selfish and "too much to ask." Gay people are expected to attend straight weddings with enthusiasm, outstretched checkbooks, and no qualms. But couldn't be seen as selfish of straight people who support equal marriage rights to continue getting married while their gay friends and family are forbidden to do so by law – except in one tiny state?

Maybe wanting straight people to stand up for us is a lot to ask. But more and more, it seems clear that queer activism alone on issues like marriage can only take us so far. If a recent poll from the



Boston Globe is accurate, the number of Americans who are undecided or neutral about gay marriage is decreasing – but, unfortunately, they're deciding to fall into the "defend traditional marriage" column instead of the "equal rights for all" one. The radical right has seemingly been doing a good job of scaring folks about our unions' supposed threat to heterosexual society.

How, then, to get more progressive-minded straight people actively involved on the issue of marriage rights? One way, of course, is to attend all those straight family and friends' weddings – instead of, as gay activist Eric Rofes suggested in frustration a few years back, boycotting them. Our presence at these events is probably more necessary than ever – the face of same-sex relationships is an important one for straight people to see. On the other hand, our absence from such events might be seen as hurtful or, well, selfish – or dismissed as inappropriately political.

By attending, we might even insert a bit of politics into these supposedly nonpolitical events. (I say "supposedly" because the right has made heterosexual marriage a highly political issue.) For our upcoming family weddings, Katie and I will be traveling to Connecticut, a state that just recently passed civil unions legislation in

lieu of marriage, and the opportunity might arise to broach the topic with other family members and guests. Similarly, if you attend a wedding in a state with antigay-marriage legislation, that would be another good topic for wedding reception discussion.

Or consider including with your wedding gift a contribution to an organization like Freedom to Marry (www.freedomtomarry.org); enclose in your card a note about your reason for making the donation. If your relatives or friends are avid readers, a copy of Evan Wolfson's accessible and well-argued *Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry* would slip very nicely into the box with their blender or vase. There's also a report from the Human Rights Campaign called "To Have and To Hold? Maybe Not," which collects the true stories of same-sex couples who have been denied the protections of marriage. (You can download it at www.hrc.org.)

With close friends or family members, you might go a step further and admit that attending a straight wedding at this moment in time – when antigay-marriage sentiment runs so high – is difficult or painful for you. Even though it's unlikely they'll call off their own wedding, the couple just might opt to make a public statement in favor of equal-marriage rights at their ceremony or reception.

All of these suggestions up the ante on our personal activism. It's one thing to attend a marriage rights rally or fundraiser; it's quite another to ask our loved ones to face the reality of our discrimination on a day that's supposed to be the pinnacle of heterosexual happiness. Yet, without more active support from straight people, we're going to hit an impasse on marriage rights – if we haven't already. ▶

Paula Martinac is a playwright, novelist, and editor in chief of *Q Syndicate*. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

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'College Not Combat' campaign



The "College Not Combat" campaign kicked off with a rally outside the 16th Street BART station Saturday, May 28. Above, Joshua Smith signs the petition while Kevin Salda looks on. The campaign is working to put a resolution on the ballot in San Francisco that affirms the city's opposition to the presence of military recruiters on school campuses. The group cited its opposition to the war in Iraq and the military's homophobic "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that bars openly gay men and women from serving in the armed forces. Speakers at the rally included Supervisor Chris Daly and former Supervisor Matt Gonzalez.



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Jim Hedges

How queer was Abraham Lincoln?

by Liz Highleyman

Abraham Lincoln, one of the most admired presidents of all time, was in many ways an enigma. To this day, the nature of his relationships and sexuality remain the subject of debate by scholars and gay activists.

Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in a log cabin on the Kentucky frontier. With less than a year of formal schooling, he taught himself law and became partner in a legal practice in 1837. He served four terms in the Illinois state Legislature and one in the U.S. Congress before being elected president in 1860. Although known for freeing slaves in the rebel southern states, Lincoln was neither an abolitionist nor a proponent of racial equality. Shortly after his second inauguration and days after the Civil War ended in April 1865, Lincoln was assassinated, and he never saw the nation reunited.

Lincoln's circumspection about his private life has engendered much speculation over the years. Based on the accounts of several townspeople, his one-time law partner and first biographer, William Herndon, wrote that in his early 20s Lincoln fell in love with an innkeeper's daughter, Ann

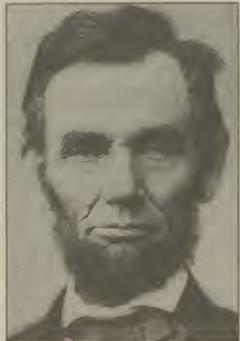
Rutledge, and was distraught when she died in 1835; other scholars contend this relationship is a myth. A few years later, Lincoln dutifully proposed marriage to a friend's sister, Mary Owens. Much to his relief, she turned him down, saying he was "deficient in those little links which make up the chain of a woman's happiness."

Upon moving to Springfield, Illinois, as a destitute new lawyer in 1837, Lincoln shared a room – and a bed – for four years with his "most intimate friend," Joshua Speed. When Speed moved away to marry, Lincoln fell into a deep depression. "I am now the most miserable man living," he lamented. In 1842, after a long on-and-off courtship, Lincoln married Mary Todd, the daughter of a prominent Kentucky businessman. The couple had four sons, three of whom died in childhood. Some historians believe they were happy together, but others contend she was shrewish and mentally unstable and he was melancholy and remote.

Carl Sandburg, who penned a multi-volume Lincoln biography in the 1920s, quipped that Lincoln and Speed's relationship had "a streak of lavender and spots soft as May violets." In addition, several gay authors – including Jim Kep-



Past Out



Abraham Lincoln

er of the ONE Institute, historians Charley Shively and Jonathan Ned Katz, novelist Gore Vidal, and activist/playwright Larry Kramer – have suggested that Lincoln was homosexual or bisexual.

The controversy erupted anew with the 2004 publication of *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* by C.A. Tripp, a psychologist who once worked with Alfred Kinsey. Tripp (who died just weeks after his manuscript was completed) claimed Lincoln was "predominantly homosexual," offering as evidence his purported early puberty, his "sex-minded" penchant for ribaldry (including a poem he wrote in his youth about

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Spectrum dinner honors Marin high school and others

by Zak Szymanski

From November 2004 through the spring of 2005, when Marin County's Tamalpais High School was the target of a series of antigay incidents, the school community responded by taking several steps to ensure students' safety and proclaim that that hatred would not be tolerated.

Incidents at the school included vandalism to the vehicle and locker of the president of the school's gay-straight alliance, a senior who also said she was pelted with eggs outside of her home. Openly gay teachers received threatening voice mails, and graffiti with phrases like, "Die Fag" and "Fag class" were found on campus. In response, students organized a candlelight vigil; a multicultural assembly addressed the need to stand against hatred; and the school hung a banner across the campus bell tower that read, "Acceptance/Compassion/Empathy."

Shock and confusion ensued when a police investigation revealed in May that the primary victim in the case fabricated the attacks. Mill Valley police concluded in May that the 17-year-old GSA leader who claimed to have been assaulted staged the in-

cidents for attention. Police have not identified her.

But the attacks had the same effect as all hate crimes do by reverberating throughout the community. Moreover, the revelations did not change the school's response to the attacks or compassion for the student involved, and school administrators emphasized that they would not focus on anger, but on the ways in which everyone came together to stand against hate.

Acknowledging the school's exemplary actions, Marin County's LGBT center Spectrum will honor Tamalpais High School administration, staff, and students at its annual "Circle of Friends" celebration on Tuesday, June 7 at Giorgio's restaurant in Greenbrae.

"It's only natural to be distracted by the specifics of a controversy. But in order to move forward toward the goal of equality for all, we need to focus on safety, justice, education, and understanding for our diverse student population in Marin," said Spectrum's Executive Director Paula Pilecki. "This is what students, teachers, and administrators of Tamalpais High School have demonstrated consistently throughout the past several months."

The awards dinner honors the achievements and leadership of

area volunteers and community leaders. Tamalpais High School will receive Spectrum's Community Appreciation Award.

Additionally, Spectrum will present Cole Irwin, a senior at San Rafael High School, and Dani Marie Kleist, a retired PG&E project manager and female-to-male transsexual, with the Speaking Out Award. Irwin and Kleist are members of the organization's speakers bureau, which helps to put a face on LGBT issues for area school kids and reaches over 2,500 students a year. Also receiving awards for their activism and organizing will be Wes Starratt, Dolores Caruthers, and Klara Larsen.

Spectrum's awards dinner begins at 5:30 and features a no-host bar and light buffet plus music by jazz pianist Terry Disley. The popular event typically features a mix of business and nonprofit professionals, educational leaders, and community organizers. Giorgio's restaurant is located at 300 Drake's Landing Road in Greenbrae. Tickets to the event are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door; Call (415) 457-1115, ext. 206, or visit www.spectrumanmarin.org for more information. ▼

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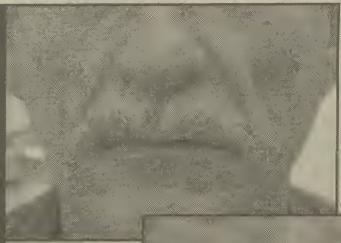
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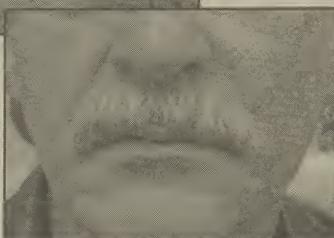
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Queer graduates honored at SFSU

by Kevin Davis

Students from different academic schools at San Francisco State University – an African American lesbian social justice undergraduate and a gay immigrant humanities student – received the symbolic “investiture of the hood” on behalf of their fellow graduates at the 104th commencement last Saturday, May 28, while a gender queer FTM graduate student also received a top honor.

Ethnic studies Hood recipient and black studies major Shawanna Vel Demmons, 40, paid for her \$1,500 per semester tuition, rent, food, transportation, books, and supplies by working full-time as a case manager in the University of California, San Francisco clinical psychiatry department. She was part of a team working at several residential hotels with those who receive services under the Care Not Cash initiative.

“It was really awesome to be out there on the platform, in the comfortable chairs on stage,” she said of the Saturday night full commencement where students with highest honors from La Raza, queer, Native American, and Asian American studies sat near SFSU President Robert Corrigan.

Demmons, the first in her family to earn a bachelor’s degree, worked up to 13-hour days, com-



William Morris

San Francisco State University Hood recipients Matthew Parn, left, and Shawanna Demmons at their graduation ceremony Saturday.

muting from her Oakland home to the Oceanview campus, then to work downtown and back to campus sometimes, where she co-edited and contributed to the black studies journal.

“If you don’t know your history, you don’t know yourself,” reads her online biography.

Raised in Gardena, in Southern California, Demmons spent a decade counseling HIV-positive and queer youth of color at the LA Gay and Lesbian Center’s Kruks-Tilsner homeless youth transitional living shelter, offering case management, mental health services, and independent living skills preparation.

Demmons worked in HIV treatment advocacy in Santa Monica as a youth coordinator, teaching high school students “HIV awareness 101,” she said, then moved to the city in 2000, working in community health in Hunters Point.

She said that social justice, civil rights, and caring for the community “just comes naturally.”

“I’m good at it,” she said. “Helping marginalized people have the best quality of life, doing repairs on a room, access to medication, if mentally ill, have a relationship with them.”

She will apply to Hastings, Boalt and Stanford law schools for fall 2006.

Perth native Matthew Parn, 33, who at 20 began writing speeches for members of the Australian Parliament, earned his technical and professional writing bachelor’s degree magna cum laude.

He misses Perth’s beaches, but not the hot Mediterranean climate, said Parn, who met his partner while attending San Francisco’s Pride Parade in 1999.



L. Degrandis

SFSU graduate Lathem Bonem

“I love the cooling fog every afternoon,” he said, from his residence in the Castro. “I love the way the city is laid out.”

English majors have long used their skills to work on technical manuals. Today, the new field of study fits concisely in academia, “to hone in on those skills, rather than drag them in from other [disciplines],” he said.

SFSU is the only university to offer a full bachelor’s of arts degree in professional writing, where students learn how to write brochures, annual reports, non-profit grant writing, and more.

“Professional Ph.D. people don’t know how to use plain language or edit – that’s the professional side,” said Parn.

He begins job-hunting this week. With a student visa he worked a \$9-per-hour on-campus job. When his one-year employment authorization runs out he must acquire a work visa, limited to just 60,000 immigrants nationwide.

Lathem A. Bonem won the behavioral and social sciences

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Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, Aciphex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra®, Levitra®, Cialis®, or Vfend® while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Common side effects of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take Reyataz and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.

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[†]REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

[‡]People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

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What is REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate)?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium complex* (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?**Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- if you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- if you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- if you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- if you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
- For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
- For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or VIDEX® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.

- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPLISID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).

• CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.

• Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).

• St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.

• "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILosec® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDE®, and others).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTRIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTOVASE®, INVRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- VIDEX® (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.

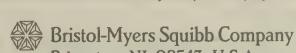
This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or call 1-800-426-7644.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive Ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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Revised October 2004

Trans-inclusive hate crimes legislation introduced in House

by Bob Roehr

Hate crimes legislation that for the first time includes protection for transgenders was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on May 26. The measure is known as the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 2662).

The lead sponsors are Representatives John Conyers (D-Michigan), Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), Christopher Shays (R-Connecticut), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Florida). A handful of Republicans are among the 96 sponsors.

"It is a tragedy and a travesty that crimes motivated by hate continue to plague our nation," Ros-Lehtinen told the *Miami Herald*. "It is important that local law enforcement agencies have the tools they need from the federal government to combat hate crimes."

The Cuban American representative from Miami has become an increasingly vocal supporter of gay issues. She recently spoke out in opposition to the antigay military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"This is an historic moment," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "It marks the first time that members of Congress have openly expressed the need for explicit federal protections for transgender people."

"Transgender-inclusive hate crimes legislation sends a strong message that violence based on gender identity and expression is not acceptable and will not be tolerated," she added.

"Given the pervasive nature of hate violence against transgender people, any hate crimes bill that fails to specifically include transgender people would be deeply flawed, both morally and from a law enforcement perspective," Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said. "We hope the Senate will now update its bill with the new House language so that we can support it as well."

"Transgender and gay Americans deserve the same clear protections against hate crimes as other Americans," added Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmoness in throwing his support to the bill.

The American Civil Liberties Union had declined to endorse such legislation in the past because of fears that it might chill constitutionally protected speech. However, other changes in drafting the bill have allayed the organization's fears and it is endorsing H.R. 2662.

"This carefully crafted measure shows that you can prosecute hate crimes without attacking freedom of expression," said ACLU lobbyist Christopher Anders.

Anders said the current language removes the danger that

unrelated speech-related evidence would be used as a basis for convicting a person of a hate crime. It also eliminates the risk of prosecutors focusing on "guilt by association" with groups whose bigoted views many may find repugnant, but which had no role in committing the violent act.

The measure probably would pass if put to a vote but opposition from the conservative Republican leadership in the House is not likely to let that happen during this session of Congress.

A similarly titled and easily confused bill, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 (H.R. 259), was introduced in January. The newer measure introduced last week supplants the older one. ▼



Mara Keisling

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Hope to move forward for the good of the community

A statement from the management and the employees of SF Badlands, Detour and the Pendulum

- (1) Our bars have a large and very diverse clientele—people of all races, colors, ethnicities and sexual orientations;
- (2) Our bars have a diverse and friendly staff that reflects the diversity in the community;
- (3) We acknowledge that some people have felt they were discriminated against in the past, and we do not deny the sincerity of their beliefs or their feelings;
- (4) We sincerely apologize to anyone who felt discriminated against or did not feel welcome at any of our bars;
- (5) When complaints were made known to us one year ago, we immediately took steps to ensure that no one felt they were discriminated against from that time forward. We have received no complaints of discrimination in the last year;
- (6) We have reached out to the African-American community in our advertising and through personal contacts, and we have a large number of African-American customers who patronize and support our bars;
- (7) We are grateful for everyone's support, and we will continue to work to make SF Badlands, the Detour and the Pendulum the friendliest, most inclusive and most popular bars in the Castro; .
- (8) We acknowledge the good work and the success of the community organizations that promote diversity and inclusion; there is more diversity in the Castro today than at any time in the past, and we recognize there is more work to be done;
- (9) Our offer to donate \$100,000 through fundraising at our bars has been criticized by some as being a "bribe." This is not true. Our offer is in recognition of what we now know is a fact: Some people feel discrimination in the Castro. We want to be a part of the solution and our offer remains open.
- (10) Further, we offer to engage in mediation discussions with community members and community officials including Supervisor Bevan Dufty in the hope that we can move forward for the good of the community.

San Francisco Badlands / Detour / Pendulum / voicemail: 415-626-9320 / email: info@sfbadlands.com

GAPA board member resigns over pickets

by Matthew S. Bakko

Rico Peng, an at-large member of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance's board, resigned his seat this week due to the group's endorsement of the San Francisco Badlands boycott. Peng, who has worked at the Castro bar as a bartender since December, also quit the group altogether, and after four years, will no longer design GAPA's newsletter.

"I think they want to do it to get publicity. I told our co-chair, Joe Mendoza, that a lot of Asians go there and it will not help GAPA get better publicity if we do something like that," said Peng, who is

Chinese American. "I am quitting because I don't believe in what they are believing in. I don't think a nonprofit has to be political like that to do something I believe in."

GAPA's board voted 6-2 at its meeting May 23 to join a long list of other gay community groups and political organizations endorsing the boycott of the bar. The group And Castro For All called for the boycott and has been picketing the bar the last four Saturday nights after the city's Human Rights Commission found that bar owner Les Natali discriminated against African American patrons and job applicants. Natali has denied the charges brought against him and is appealing the

HRC report.

Peng said since he has worked at the bar he has not seen any discrimination, nor does he fully believe in the charges brought against his employer, noting many of his fellow coworkers are people of color who have worked at Badlands for several years.

"Personally, I don't think it is true," said Peng. "I have never experienced any kind of discrimination. We do kick people out sometimes, but only when they are drunk."

Peng said he took issue with his fellow board members for putting more trust in the opinions of the boycott organizers than his own. He also found it hypocritical that several board members who voted in favor of the boycott hang out at Badlands and said they never felt discriminated against at the bar.

"I am in middle of it. They don't trust me as a board member," said Peng. "If we don't have trust relationship with each other I don't think they will accept me."

Mendoza, the GAPA co-chair, said in an e-mailed statement that the group is "saddened" to learn of Peng's decision to leave the board.

"Rico has done good work as a board member, and we wish him well in future endeavors," wrote Mendoza.

As to the board's endorsement of the Badlands boycott, Mendoza

said the decision was made after extensive discussion among board members, and was based on the finding of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission on the issue.

"We recognize that there are many diverse opinions on the issue, but after hearing from many of our members, consultations with our allies in the community, and studying the HRC report, a majority of the board decided that supporting the boycott was an appropriate course of action," he wrote.

Vincent Baduel, a past chair of GAPA's political awareness committee and now an adviser to the board, said he understands Peng's position but that the board looked at the HRC report in determining how to vote.

"I understand his points. This

is not really a black and white issue, pardon the pun, because first you have to look at the facts.

Second, you have to find out the best course of action," said Baduel.

"The position was made based on what we thought would be best under the circumstances and the information we have. Unfortunately, he joined Badlands in December so he can probably only speak from that time on. People interviewed were involved with Badlands before that time. We gave credence to the report from

the Human Rights Commission and other groups in the coalition."

Considering Asian and Pacific Islanders gave testimony for the HRC report, Baduel said it was important that GAPA take a stand.

"While people will not necessarily have the same bad experiences as those other people, that doesn't necessarily mean we shouldn't take action on it," he said. "There are a lot of people involved and in one way the community can look into itself and find solutions to problems that are coming up."

Peng disagrees with the boycott strategy, saying it does nothing to resolve the situation and only harms the employees, including those who are people of color.

"What they are doing right now is terminating a business, not educating people about what discrimination is about. If they are going to do that they should protest outside the Detour and Pendulum," he said. "I don't think this is the way to solve the problem."

"I would say everybody should come in and have a drink to see what it is really about in the bar and ask people if they do get discriminated against," added Peng. "All our customers really enjoy coming here to Badlands and do have a good time." ▼

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Demonstrators picket outside of Badlands bar for the fourth consecutive Saturday night.

Badlands

◀ page 1

having some success, said supporters of the boycott.

"I think people are talking about it. The point of this is not to stop business at Badlands. The point is to get people to talk about it," said Luke Klipp, who also joined the picket line for the first time this weekend.

"A handful of people have now pushed a lot of buttons for people both negatively and positively. It shows you can create change. In that way it is really exciting," added Kyriell Noon, 33, a black man and Noe Valley resident who came forward last year to report being asked for multiple IDs at the bar.

Noon has joined the picket line every weekend since it started.

"What amazes me the most and most profoundly upsets me is gay men seem unwilling to accept something happened. Maybe it

did not happen to them but it doesn't mean it didn't happen to others," he said. "It seems myopic and shortsighted. It makes me a little bit crazy."

The boycott and weekly pickets of San Francisco Badlands are now entering a second month, and organizers of the protests are modifying their approach toward patrons of the Castro bar. Members of And Castro For All, the community group spearheading the demonstrations, moved to change the tone of the street protests this past Saturday, asking those walking the picket line to drop the "Shame on you" chants.

Instead, the protesters chanted "Think before you drink" and "2,4,6,8 - gays should not discriminate."

"We are going to take this demonstration in a different direction tonight," Julius Turman, the group's attorney, told about 40 people gathered at the offices of a gay youth agency around the corner from the bar prior to forming

the picket line.

John Newsome, an organizer with And Castro For All, explained to those gathered — a multi-ethnic group of men and women — that the goal is to demonstrate to both bar patrons and passersby the kind of diverse and accepting community the Castro can be.

"When we are out there, showing people what we want this community to look like, I am not going to chant about bigots. I am not going to chant about shame," he said. "We want people to see there is something better. We are right and we know we are right and we want people to feel good about joining us tonight."

Derek Turner, 25, a former Badlands bartender who was one of the first people to voice charges about discriminatory practices at the bar, said the muted approach seemed to work, in that he had a lot of positive encounters with passersby last Saturday.

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Bryan Gescuk holds an A.B. degree from Harvard University, a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and a Medical Degree from the Boston University School of Medicine.

Same-sex marriage battles continue

by Lisa Keen

Battles over same-sex marriage continue to proliferate, with a victory scored in Massachusetts, a skirmish lost in New York, new statewide battles brewing in Texas, Arizona, and California, with a major funding commitment promised for California's expected statewide ballot initiative fight.

In Massachusetts, the state's highest court last week dismissed an appeal from an antigay Catholic activist who sought to have the court's ruling set aside until voters had a chance to weigh in on same-sex marriages.

Joseph Doyle, the executive director of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, filed the lawsuit shortly after the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state constitution required that same-sex couples be entitled to marriage licenses the same as heterosexual couples. It was one of several lawsuits filed after the ruling, most of which tried to stop the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples. So far, no lawsuit has succeeded in doing that and, since May 17, 2004, the state has issued marriage licenses to more than 6,000 same-sex couples.

In a surprise development, the Massachusetts high court heard oral arguments in the *Doyle v. Goodridge* case, May 2. But in its May 27 decision, it dismissed the appeal as "moot," saying that an earlier ruling on the lawsuit, by a single justice of the court, had been correct. Responding to Doyle's request that the high court "recall" its own ruling on same-sex marriage, the court said, "we decline to do so."

"Nothing has transpired [since the ruling was issued] that materially changes the situation or which warrants the truly extraordinary measures sought now," said the court.

The state Legislature did pass a constitutional amendment last year to ban same-sex marriage and offer domestic partnership benefits instead, but that amendment must be approved once

again by the Legislature – this year – in order to go before voters in November 2006.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, which won the historic marriage ruling in the *Goodridge* case, said the *Doyle* lawsuit was the last legal challenge in Massachusetts court to same-sex marriage.

New Paltz mayor faces trial

Of course, the *Doyle* case is by no means the last legal challenge in the country. Those are proliferating large and small.

New York state's highest court rejected a request May 27 to consider the constitutionality of same-sex marriages through a review of charges against New Paltz Mayor Jason West for solemnizing such marriages last year.

A district attorney pressing the



New Paltz Mayor Jason West

charges against West had argued that the same-sex marriage issue should be considered through lawsuits filed by gay couples who have been denied marriage licenses. West's case involves only misdemeanor charges against him for allegedly violating a law that says an authority cannot solemnize a couple's marriage unless the couple has first obtained a marriage license.

In February 2004, West performed public ceremonies solemnizing the marriages of almost two dozen same-sex couples who had not obtained marriage licens-

es. In New York state, such licenses can be issued only by a town or city clerk.

The charges against the New Paltz mayor are now scheduled to return to an Ulster County court; however, West still has pending a request that the charges be dismissed. If convicted of the charges, West is expected to face a fine.

West, a member of the Green Party, was elected mayor in 2003, running on an "Innovation Party" ticket and defeated a five-term incumbent.

California battleground ignites

Meanwhile, a group hoping to ban legal benefits for any same-sex relationships filed notice May 19 with the California secretary of state that it is collecting signatures to put an initiative on the June 2006 ballot to do just that. One week earlier, the state Legislature rejected an effort to amend the constitution with such a ban.

Supporters of the California Marriage Amendment say they want to raise \$1 million to collect the signatures. The initiative was drafted by the Liberty Counsel, an organizational offshoot of Jerry Falwell, and the Campaign for Children and Families.

In response, the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced this week that they will each donate \$100,000 to efforts to defeat the antigay ballot initiative. The HRC-NGLTF commitment, in the form of a challenge grant, is to donate \$1 for every \$4 raised by California gay groups to defeat the California Marriage Amendment, in hopes of raising \$1 million for the anti-initiative campaign.

Other developments

• In Texas, the state Legislature approved a proposed constitutional amendment May 21 to ban same-sex marriages in that state. The issue must now be approved by voters this November.

• In Arizona, a group seeking to ban same-sex marriage notified the state on May 17 that it is collecting signatures to put the issue before voters. ▶

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Federal agency changes course on protections for gay workers

by Bob Roehr

The special counsel charged with protecting federal employees in the workplace has claimed that he does not have the legal authority to address discrimination based on sexual orientation. That interpretation is at odds with more than two decades of practice within the agency. Log Cabin Republicans has called upon him to resign.

The U.S. Office of the Special Counsel is an obscure office with the responsibility of defending 1.7 million federal employees from discrimination and retaliation in the workplace. Scott J. Bloch was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to a five-year term that began on January 5, 2004.

During the confirmation process Bloch, a social conservative, testified that he would protect the rights of gay federal employees, as has been standard practice since 1978. But only weeks after being sworn in, Bloch began to take a series of actions that have riled federal employees for many reasons and have led some to believe that he is on an antigay crusade within the agency.

In February 2004, Federal GLOBE, the umbrella group of GLBT federal employee organizations, charged that the OSC had "removed references to sexual orientation from its basic brochure, its complaint form, a two-page flyer entitled 'Your Rights as a Federal Employee,' and a set of training slides." GLOBE called the actions "political pandering to the

conservative right" that send "a chilling message" to gay federal employees.

Gay congressional allies challenged Bloch's actions, and in April 2004 the White House released a statement saying, "Long-standing federal policy prohibits discrimination against federal employees based on sexual orientation...President Bush expects federal agencies to enforce this policy and ensure that all federal employees are protected from unfair discrimination at work."

Faced with this opposition, Bloch appeared to backtrack, at least for a while. Both Congress and the Bush administration are in a difficult position because the OSC was created to be insulated from political pressure. The direc-

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Dufy works behind the scenes

by Matthew S. Bajko

Supervisor Tom Ammiano, dressed in black jeans, a T-shirt, and leather jacket, walked the Badlands picket line Saturday night, reminiscing beforehand about protesting racist policies at gay bars in the 1970s.

"This is going to be a complicated road," he advised those organizing the boycott against the Castro bar.

Supervisors Sophie Maxwell, Ross Mirkarimi, Chris Daly, and former board President Matt Gonzalez have all joined the protesters at their weekly Saturday night street demonstrations.

Notably absent from the list: Supervisor Bevan Dufy, whose district includes the Castro. His absence has not gone unnoticed by organizers of the boycott and their supporters, who have invited Dufy to speak to the group prior to forming the picket lines.

Instead of joining the public fight, Dufy has chosen to work behind the scenes in an attempt to find a resolution acceptable to both sides. Last month, he met privately with embattled bar owner Les Natali on May 24,

pressing him to agree to mediation and offering to serve in the mediator role.

"Because I am hopeful of getting the parties to mediation, I didn't think it would be appropriate for me to demonstrate and then seek to have there be mediation," said Dufy.

For several months, Dufy has also been talking to Roger Doughty, executive director of Horizons Foundation, and other LGBT officials about launching a social marketing campaign around diversity. And he has been meeting with business leaders in the Castro about training merchants on the responsibility they have to promote inclusion and diversity.

"I am interested in seeing a campaign that educates people about inclusiveness," Dufy said. "People need to be more aware. I am reaching out and do think the [community] center is a good place to initiate a social marketing campaign and training of individuals who hire and provide services in the community."

Last year, Dufy did send a letter to the state Department of Alcoholic and Beverage Control



Supervisor Bevan Dufy

urging it to consider the matter. After the city's Human Rights Commission issued its findings that Natali had discriminated against black patrons and prospective employees, Dufy urged the ABC to consider the report as it weighs revocation of Natali's liquor license.

Natali has denied all charges.

On the night the HRC released its report, Dufy issued a statement thanking those com-

plainants who came forward and applauding the group And Castro For All for "being a catalyst to address the situation at Badland's and the broader need for a more inclusive, diverse and welcoming community."

In an e-mail, Natali said his meeting last week with Dufy was a very pleasant meeting, and I am grateful to Bevan for his understanding of the situation." As for mediation, Natali said, "I told Bevan, yes, I would agree to that, I would be willing to mediate and negotiate in good faith with the complainants."

In a letter sent to Julius Turman, the attorney for those bringing forward charges of racism against Natali, Dufy said Natali had accepted his offer "without preconditions" and iterated that "it is my hope that your clients, And Castro for All and Calvin Gipson and his leadership effort will similarly agree to participate in mediation."

This week Turman responded that his clients would agree to mediation "which must occur in parallel to the city and state's enforcement processes" but preferred to see a neutral party act as mediator.

"We note that Mr. Natali and his supporters have repeatedly and vociferously claimed that your friendship with a rival bar owner has biased you," wrote Turman in a letter sent Tuesday, May 31 to Dufy. "Given Mr. Natali's initial claims, it would seem that having you as the actual mediator of the dispute might ultimately lead Mr. Natali to denounce the mediation process as biased, should he be dissatisfied with its outcome."

Turman suggested using a mediator from the Department of Fair Employment and Housing or the city's Human Rights Commission. Dufy has in turn asked several LGBT leaders to take part, including LGBT Community Center Executive Director Thom Lynch; Ark of Refuge Ministries Bishop Yvette Flunder; Merchants of Upper Market and Castro President Paul Moffett; and MCC-SF senior pastor the Reverend Dr. Penny Nixon.

In the end, Dufy said his main motivation is to see that "there be some positive initiatives the community can gather around and help in making a positive contribution. I would like to see things move forward and they will." ▶



Badlands

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"We were really emphasizing being a positive alternative to discrimination and being able to talk with people about what we want the Castro to be and agreeing with them in that we share the values of inclusion and equality," he said. "I think that the more positive forums we can create the better, but

we can't stop protesting wrongdoing just because it is uncomfortable."

Some changes

Since bringing forth their charges against Natali, the group does credit him for making several changes to how he operates his bar. They note that Natali has dramatically diversified his advertising images to include women and people of color; hired women and people of color, started a Latin night and hip-hop night, and has apparently ended his ban on certain kinds of music that he previously feared would draw more African Americans to his bar."

As Turman noted in an e-mail, "Mr. Natali has begun to operate his establishment as he should have operated it all along. We're pleased that we have helped to play a role in this transformation, but are these permanent changes? More importantly, the changed management style does not satisfy the claims for justice of the complainants or the broader community of people who feel violated by his history of racist discrimination. Mr. Natali's response to these concerns is apparently a half-hearted apology to all who may have 'felt' discriminated against at his bars and an offer of money to seven community groups, all of which have rejected his offer as an offensively insignificant gesture."

Noon added, "It is great he has gone out of his way to hire blacks, Latinos, and women. He still



John Newsome

needs to be held accountable for things he has done in the past."

Thus, the group has stepped up criticism of city and state officials at regulatory agencies who have yet to take any actions against Natali.

"This is no longer a discussion between us as community members and Les Natali. We are taking the position the city and county should be in. We are asking for them to step up to the plate," said Newsome. "This is an issue for the city and state to enforce. Their silence around this to date has been deafening. We have been really angry and justifiably so. The regulatory agencies' response has also been frustrating."

The protesters have vowed to maintain their Saturday night picket lines through at least the end of June, at which time both the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the city's Entertainment Commission are expected to end their investigations of allegations that Natali discriminated against black patrons of his bar.

Supporters, detractors

While the list of community groups who support the boycott continues to grow, so, too, do detractors who question if the boycott and pickets serve any real purpose other than trying to hurt Natali financially. While the first protest drove people away from the bar, patrons have returned in increasing numbers ever since.

Natali has introduced two-for-one drink specials and dropped charging a cover Saturday nights, helping to keep the bar packed.

A group of patrons at the bar are volunteering on Saturday nights to give a different take on the matter and hand out flyers stating Natali's position to passersby.

Bennett Warren, who helped initiate the idea with a barback of the bar, said he believes the protesters won't go away until they see the bar closed. A regular of the bar since Natali reopened it five years ago, Warren said he doesn't buy that the charges against Natali have any merit.

"I have not seen it. He has a very ethnically diverse group of employees," he said. "It just doesn't add up with what their claims are. The people out there picketing are not even customers of the bar. They are not aware of what goes on there."

Natali, in flyers his supporters have been handing out, has said that he and his employees "sincerely apologize to anyone who felt discriminated against or did not feel welcome at any of our bars."

But the apology falls far short of what the complainants would like to hear.

"He has never apologized or acknowledged that the people who testified at the HRC spoke the truth," said Noon. "He has to acknowledge wrongdoing has occurred. It has to start there."

Supervisor Bevan Dufy is working behind the scenes to bring an end to the demonstrations, meeting with Natali and David Weiss, owner of Catch, last week to discuss "moving forward ...because [the present situation] is not benefiting the community," according to those at the meeting.

Dufy has also taken some heat for not attending the Saturday night protests, as fellow Supervisors Sophie Maxwell, Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, and Ross Mirkarimi have. Attempting to broker mediation to bring the matter to some conclusion, Dufy said he has tried not to appear partisan by joining the picketers.

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OBITUARIES

Robert "Dash" D'Achille

October 19, 1954 — May 15, 2005



Dash passed away on May 15, 2005 after a long, difficult battle with cancer. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 19, 1954. After finishing his schooling to become a respiratory therapist, he worked for several years at Columbia Hospital in Pittsburgh. He then followed his dream to move to California, first in San Jose in 1980, then moving to San Francisco in 1981. He

worked for many years at CPMC and VNH, spreading his warmth and good cheer wherever he went.

Dash was preceded in death by his mother, Jean Sirocco D'Achille, and is survived by his beloved father, Domenic D'Achille; his loving sister, Judy Cooney, nieces Erika Cooney and nephew Michael Cooney and many friends. He will be terribly missed and always loved by his partner and best friend of 20 years, Fred Sorenson. We are all grateful for the loving care received by UCSF Home Health, VNH & Coming Home Hospice.

There will be a Celebration of his Life at the home of Keith & Dan at 167 Monterey Blvd. in San Francisco on June 11 at 4 p.m. Donations in his

memory can be made to Coming Home Hospice, 115 Diamond St., SF, CA 94114, or National Foundation for Cancer Research, P.O. Box 96024, Washington, D.C. 20090.

Fred Willy Kauffmann

January 25, 1938 — May 14, 2005



Fred Willy Kauffmann passed away on Saturday, May 14, 2005. Fred is survived by Rube Warren, his partner of 22 years; his sister Ely Blakie (Ernie) of Minden, Nevada; Jezebeau, a

Maine Coon Cat; and numerous friends all over the world. He was predeceased by two siblings and estranged from two others.

Fred was born January 25, 1938 in Bitz, a small village in Southern Germany. He came to the United States in September 1961 to learn English. In the 1970's, he was a banker in San Francisco and after that worked for Berlitz Language Schools and retired 12 years ago as director of the Palo Alto School. Fred was very busy with restoration of a house in Noe Valley, gardening, food preparation, fine dining, yoga and travel. Since 1999 he was a volunteer at Project Open Hand where he loved helping people with his friends Melanie, Frederick, and Roger.

Fred saw himself as a teacher and advocate of environmentalism, organic everything, and personal freedom. Fred loved his life and he loved his extended family of choice, including people from all over the world. Fred requested that his friends celebrate his life, not grieve his death. There will be no service but a celebration of his life is planned at the end of the summer.

Fred received excellent care at CPMC and for many years from Martin

Kramer, PA. Memorials may be made to Project Open Hand or to San Francisco Botanical Garden Society in Golden Gate Park.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Lockyer

◀ page 1

awaiting," said Dorsey. "We are gratified by the trial court's ruling in March and we are committed to continuing the fight for marriage equality to the Supreme Court."

Asked about Lockyer's decision to support the appeal, Equality California Executive Director Geoffrey Kors said in an e-mail, "More and more legislators understand that the same rights and protections to provide and care for children is a legal and financial responsibility that should be afforded to any parent regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

Shannon Minter, an attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, added that now that the attorney general has filed an appeal, the antigay groups involved in the cases likely will file suit.

"We certainly knew this was coming. We are eager to see the case decided as quickly as possible and we are very optimistic," he said.

In a release announcing the filings, Lockyer's office indicated his decision to appeal is not based on

outright opposition to gay couples having the right to wed. Instead, his office specified that the appeals were filed pursuant to the attorney general's duty to defend state laws that have been challenged in court.

Under the California Constitution, all government officials and entities are required to enforce and respect a statute unless and until an appellate court has held the statute unconstitutional," noted Lockyer's office in its statement. "The parties to these cases have acknowledged that the same-sex marriage cases ultimately should be heard and resolved by the California Supreme Court in order to provide a binding judgment that is effective statewide."

On April 13 Kramer issued a final decision, following his tentative ruling in March, in the cases that found unconstitutional California laws limiting marriage to one man and one woman. Specifically, the judge held that Family Code section 300, which provides that a marriage in California is a union between a man and a woman, and Family Code section 308.5, which provides that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California, violate the California

Constitution's equal protection guarantees. The ruling overturned the antigay measure Proposition 22, which voters passed in 2000 and groups opposed to granting same-sex couples marriage rights used have argued against the gay weddings.

Kramer voluntarily stayed his rulings from taking effect pending an appeal. His decision stemmed from cases brought by Herrera, antigay groups, and over a dozen gay and lesbian couples throughout the state who were denied the chance to marry in February and March 2004 in San Francisco after Mayor Gavin Newsom ordered city officials to hand out gender neutral marriage licenses.

The state Supreme Court ordered the city to halt the weddings but did not address the constitutionality of the state's marriage laws. Instead, the justices invited city officials to file a lawsuit with the lower courts before it would address the matter.

The four cases are *City and County of San Francisco v. State of California, et al.* (Case #: 429-539); *Clinton v. State of California, et al.* (Case #: CGC-04-0429548); *Tyler v. State of California et al.* (Case #: BC 088 506); and *Woo v. Lockyer et al.* (Case #: 504-038). ▶

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GGBA events

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This event is free to GGBA members and \$10 for non-members. I hope to see you there. Visit www.ggba.com for more information or call Joe Engle at (415) 865-

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Lyndy McNaught

Sara Lewinstein pitching for Artemis Café in 1980

'Jock Talk'

Sara Waddell Lewinstein will be the guest speaker at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society and Museum, this Saturday, June 4, at 3:30 p.m. Waddell Lewinstein will share memories about lesbian softball in the 1970s, the formation of the Gay Games, and much more about building lesbian and gay community through sports in the Bay Area.

"Jock Talk" brings together an exciting roster of scholars, athletes, activists, and community leaders discussing past and present GLBT sports and their relationship to social movements, culture, politics, and community building. The speaking series accompanies the historical society's main gallery exhibit, "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today." Among the prominent items in the exhibit are those loaned by Lewinstein, which include Gay Games I T-shirts and memorabilia, and the discuses Tom Waddell used in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

The event is free, and refreshments will be served. The historical society is located at 657 Mission Street, Suite 300 (between New Montgomery and Third). For more information, call (415) 777-5455 or visit www.glbthistory.org.

Book signing

Stop by A Different Light tonight (Thursday, June 2) at a book signing event for *When I Knew*, and meet editor Robert Trachtenberg. This illustrated collection of more than 100 smart, uproarious, often poignant stories (one of them mine) celebrate the incredibly varied yet somehow universal moment for all gay men and women: when they first knew. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. at 489 Castro Street. Info: (415) 431-0891 or www.adlbooks.com.

Team SF meeting

Team San Francisco holds its general membership meeting Saturday, June 4 at noon in the Community Meeting Room above Bank of America, at 18th and Castro streets.

Join a discussion of the Bay Area organizational group's "Back to Sports" focus, plans for Gay Games Chicago 2006, plans for team uniforms, sports T-shirts, and pins. Preview upcoming events such as this year's Pride activities and the 365 party in July.

Interested and eligible athletes can join the Team San Francisco Sports Congress, comprised of representatives from each of Team SF's network of 40 LGBT sports teams. Team SF's 10-member board of directors is also seeking three additional women to apply for the remaining director positions.

For more info, visit www.teamsf.org. ▶

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Bowled over

by Jim Provenzano

Which sport has more active participants than the total number of athletes who participated in the last Gay Games? Ask any member of the International Gay Bowling Organization, and they will take that honor with pride.

Celebrations and competition for the 25th annual IGBO tournament took place last week in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, one of the cities that founded the historic league.

IGBO XXV co-directors Bill Conklin, David Burney, and Mark Klemme expected between 400 and 800 bowlers for the anniversary tournament. Although Milwaukee has been host to five mid-year tournaments, the annual tournament had never been held in the city.

Last year's annual IGBO tournament, held in St. Louis, welcomed 530 bowlers to its events. Other regional upcoming tournaments include the Rose Bowl Classic (June 5-6 in Portland, Oregon), and the Ladies Organized Valley Invitational Tournament (June 3-5 in Los Angeles). All tournaments are listed on the IGBO Web site (www.igbo.org).

IGBO's history goes back to 1980, when gay and lesbian bowlers from gay leagues in Houston, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York City, San Diego, and Toronto met during a tournament in Los Angeles. With the number of players and leagues growing, the governing body was formed. With more than 200 leagues and 17,000 participants, the organization says it's the largest group of GLBT athletes in the world, with member leagues in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.



**Sports
Complex**

Before that, members of the Daughters of Bilitis are documented as having organized group bowling events as far back as October 1956. The evenings at a San Francisco sports center are listed in the calendar of events of the first issue of *The Ladder*, the historic periodical published by and for lesbians.

By the mid-1960s, men's bowling leagues followed, organized by the pre-Stonewall San Francisco gay rights group the Society for Individual Rights. The SIR Bowling League met each Monday night, with more than 100 members by 1968. Following the example of organized bowlers, other San Francisco sports like softball and flag football emerged, suggesting that sports groups, and bowlers in particular, predate even most GLBT civil rights groups.

What makes current IGBO tournaments unique are not only their GLBT inclusion, but also frequent campy themes like "The Wizard of Oz" or "Boat Camp," where bowlers wear thematic costumes.

Annual tournaments are held each May the week before Memorial Day weekend. The mid-year tournament is usually held over

year, Donatto, who moved to the city from Texas and is a LYRIC intern, organized a skit for a school assembly event that promoted same-sex marriage.

Former LYRIC participants have come into their own after leaving the program, Roberts said.

"LYRIC gave me the ability to continue to move even further in gay HIV prevention," said Vincent Fuqua, 35, a health educator with the Department of Public Health. "It's about working on helping other communities, particularly the African American community, work for black gay men's HIV prevention."

He said that as a teenager he did not feel innately directed toward community health education and planning.

"It was not even on my radar before I joined LYRIC," said

the Veterans Day holiday weekend. Every four years, IGBO also coordinates its tournament to coincide with the quadrennial Gay Games competition. For example, in 2002, the annual IGBO tournament took place in Auckland, New Zealand, a week before Gay Games VI in Sydney.

In addition, nearly 50 tournaments take place around the world each year, giving those 17,000-plus members plenty of opportunities for friendly competition in singles, pairs, and team formats.

At the Wisconsin tournament, two large bowling facilities, or "houses," were used for singles and doubles events, with a third house for scratch matches after tournament (in scratch bowling, scoring is done without handicaps. A scratch score is a basic game total).

Milwaukee bowling organizers are well prepared, having also held an annual Thanksgiving tournament for the past five years.

A bowler since his childhood in Arizona, Conklin recalls his parents taking him to their "bowling nights" more than 30 years ago. Not content to be stuck in the children's supervised play area, he soon took up the sport with his parents' blessing, and has competed seriously since age 18.

In 1982, when he moved to Milwaukee, Conklin started bowling in gay leagues, and soon met a welcoming community, adding, "I've been bowling ever since."

Conklin has also been involved in organizing tournaments since 1982. Like his co-directors, he takes pride in having the 25th annual IGBO tournament in a city with a lengthy history of supporting GLBT leagues, and in a sport that has such a rich historic past. ▼

For more information, visit www.hitmilwaukee.org. Read more columns at www.sportscomplex.org.

LYRIC

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pervasive, people are desensitized to it," she said.

"Sometimes when different situations [of homophobia] come up it's a perfect learning opportunity," said Ravi Singh Rangi, co-founder and current coordinator of GLSEN's gay-straight alliance peer education for Alameda County, who became involved right after graduating high school. "Our work is not to change opinions and beliefs, but to offer resources and information."

A third Champion honor will go to Joshua Dante Donatto, president of the gay-straight alliance at San Francisco's International Studies High School. Earlier this

year, Donatto, who moved to the city from Texas and is a LYRIC intern, organized a skit for a school assembly event that promoted same-sex marriage.

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"It was not even on my radar before I joined LYRIC," said

Fuqua, who facilitated rap groups and one-on-one peer counseling and has kept in touch with friends from his LYRIC days. "At 19, when I joined, I was getting more involved and more aware about HIV and I remained involved." ▼

LYRIC's gala is from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Green Room at the War Memorial Veteran's Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Tickets are \$75 per person, or \$25 for LYRIC alumni and free for youth 23 and under (25 and under for trans youth). The event includes hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic drinks, followed by the awards program and dancing. For more information, contact Melissa White at (415) 703-8510 ext. 39 or melissa@lyric.org.

SFSU

◀ page 14

school's graduate student Distinguished Achievement Award for his academic research that focused on transmen's gynecological health care access.

"I couldn't be any more thrilled," said Bonem, 26, who was nominated by the head of his thesis committee. San Francisco State is "striving to be a progressive and safe place, and a safer place for trans people to attend."

Bonem recruited a sample size

of 100 participants online and by passing out flyers at events and community-based organizations. He surveyed them on experience they had as patients, while also working one day per week as an assistant for the National Sexuality Resource Center's local research team.

After earning an undergraduate degree in social psychology at Antioch College in Ohio, Bonem visited San Francisco twice, interning with Harvey Milk Institute instructor Fairy Butch in 1998. He moved here two years ago.

Bonem officially changed his name in 2003 and then wrote a how-to guide on the topic.

Bonem — who identifies as gender queer, takes no hormones, and has never had a formal transition — has worn tighter T-shirts since his \$7,500 chest reconstructive surgery for which he saved "every penny" for two years.

"I get mistaken for a gay boy now," he said. "I feel very in-between."

After returning from a three-week European vacation Bonem plans to continue his public health research or teach. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Past Out

◀ page 12

two men who married each other), and his stepmother's assessment that he "was not very fond of girls." In addition to Speed, Lincoln also shared a bed with Billy Greene, his co-worker at a general store in the early 1830s (who told Herndon that Lincoln's thighs were "as perfect as a human being could be") and, three decades later, with his head bodyguard, David Derickson.

Several commentators argued that Tripp offered no more than flimsy circumstantial evidence. Lincoln biographer David Herbert Donald argued that it was not uncommon for men in the 19th century to share a bed out of economic necessity, and that Lincoln used the salutation "Yours Forever" in letters to half a dozen other correspondents besides Speed (although never to his wife). Furthermore, Lincoln told tales of his flirtations with women and admitted to Herndon that he visited

prostitutes. Finally, Donald suggests, Lincoln would not have been so open about his relationship with Speed if they had, in fact, been lovers.

Others, however, think a convincing case can be made that Lincoln was queer to some degree. While Tripp posited that Lincoln was a 5 on the Kinsey scale (with 6 denoting exclusive homosexuality), gay author Andrew Sullivan suggested he was more likely a 4, while Shively placed him somewhere between a 2 and a 3. "In any particular piece of evidence that Tripp discovers, I'd say it's easy to dismiss his theory," wrote Sullivan. "But when you review all the many pieces of the Lincoln emotional-sexual puzzle, the homo-sexual dimension gets harder and harder to ignore." Donald's student, Jean Baker (author of a biography of Mary Todd Lincoln), said that Lincoln "loved men, and they loved him, at whatever level" — but he also loved his wife.

Given that the concepts of homosexual and heterosexual did not exist until years after Lincoln's

death, it is anachronistic to force him into a contemporary sexual identity category. But, says Salon.com reviewer Andrew O'Hehir, Tripp's revelations offer a glimpse into a "vanished world of intimate male friendships of a kind almost unrecognizable to us." Ironically, modern notions of sexual identity have rendered certain types of homosocial relationships among men more rare, even as openly homosexual relationships have become more accepted. ▼

Suggested reading

Tripp, C.A. 2004. *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* (Free Press).

Donald, David H. 2003. *We Are Lincoln Men: Abraham Lincoln and His Friends* (Simon & Schuster).

Burlingame, Michael. 1997. *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln* (University of Illinois).

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Dept. of Telecommunications and Information Services has released Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2005-12, which seeks consultants with specific expertise in PeopleSoft Pension Administration and Payroll modules, and with business knowledge of the City's Retirement System. To download the RFQ, please go to the City's bid website (<http://sunset.ci.ca.us/bids.nsf>), click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" category, and then click on bid number "RFQ 2005-12." The proposals are due June 9.

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board of Supervisors web site at www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsupvsr/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1st Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsupvsr

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available, please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seat 5, must be nominee of District 2 Supervisor from list of organizations listed in Res. No. 168-01, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending February 1, 2006.

Seat 6, must be nominee of District 2 Supervisor from District 2, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending February 1, 2007.

SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE 2000

Seat 4, must be appointed from names submitted by New California Media and be a journalist from a racial/ethnic-minority-owned news organization, for a two-year term ending April 27, 2007.

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seats 3, 4, 5 and 6, must be nominees of District Supervisors. The member must serve a two-year term or for the tenure of the supervisor who nominated the member, whichever is shorter in duration, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending November 19, 2006.

PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seat 5, must be nominee of District 2 Supervisor from list of organizations listed in Res. No. 168-01, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending February 1, 2006.

Seat 6, must be nominee of District 2 Supervisor from District 2, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending February 1, 2007.

WESTERN SOMA CITIZENS' PLANNING TASK FORCE

Seat 4, must be a young resident in western SoMa, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending November 23, 2007.

Seat 17, must represent labor, for the unexpired portion of a three-year term ending November 23, 2007.

ASTHMA TASK FORCE

Seat 12, must be a representative of MediCal Managed Care Insurers and is a voting member, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 30, 2005.

Seat 21, must be an individual who represents property interests (non-voting member), for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 30, 2005.

Seat 22, must be an individual who represents tenant interests (non-voting member), for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 30, 2005.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Please complete a meeting information/public noticing survey online at <http://www.sfgov.org/bdsupvsr> or call (415) 554-5184 for a survey form.

STATEMENT FILE A-0285178-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lassen Tours, 391 Sutter St. Ste. 504, San Francisco, CA 94108. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Judy Swen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/6/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/6/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0285004-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Art & Soul Gallery, 1844 Divisadero St. San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Chesney Rheaume. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/28/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/2/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0285102-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Seal Rock Realty, 1775 35th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nick Kaskanian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/2/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0285198-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Studio 89 Franco Ave, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Long Wu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/9/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0285165-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bureau, 1930 Hyde St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lawrence W. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/26/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/6/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0284986-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Afu Home Care Agency, 1100 Fell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Esther Lowman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/23/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/29/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0284986-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wei Chong, 14 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership, signed Wei Chong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/17/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #261814

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Afu Home Care Agency located at 14 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership, signed Esther Lowman. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF CINCOS FILE # CNC 05

In the matter of the application of Wei Chong for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing that said application that his/her name changed to Wei Zhang. Notwithstanding, hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court, Room 218 on the 7th day of July, 2005, 9:00 am of said day to show cause why application for change of name should not be granted. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #261814

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Afu Home Care Agency located at 14 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership, signed Esther Lowman. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0284986-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Afu Home Care Agency, 1100 Fell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership, signed Wei Chong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/17/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0284986-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wei Chong, 14 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership, signed Wei Chong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/17/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05. **MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005**

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542072

In the matter of the application of Adam Lee Cronin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Adam Lee Cronin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alessandro DeNino. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that the proposed name of Alessandro DeNino do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 14th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

STATEMENT FILE A-0285385-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Street Loan Co., 940 Bay St. #18 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Fred Koopman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/12/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285442-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Belmont Hardware, 115 Wisconsin St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Bradley A. Clore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/19/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285161-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Web Caddy, 2121 Evans #G San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christopher Swies. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/06/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/06/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285408-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Idleland Media, 1637 Clay St. #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jonathan Lanford. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/28/08. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/11/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

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Death of a bon vivant

Ismail Merchant and his works, including 'Room with a View,' 'Maurice,' recalled.

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Capturing Katharine

Kate Mulgrew embodies Hepburn in 'Tea at Five.'

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Speaking in tongues

Lesbians among Chinese Americans 'Saving Face.'

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 22 • 2 June 2005

Channeling Miss Bette Davis

Matthew Martin directs and stars as the bygone diva

by Richard Dodds

Matthew Martin was a shy kid. "And I've been making up for it with a vengeance ever since," he said, as if it were a line from a Bette Davis movie.

Martin is famous 'round these parts for his uncanny impersonations of the latter-day Bette Davis, though one shouldn't discount his channeling of Kate Hepburn and Judy Garland. But it is Bette who is his forte, and he is returning to one of his signature homages/travesties of the late legend.

Martin is both a star and the director of *Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte*, duties he first essayed when this large-stroke interpretation of *Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte* premiered at the Victoria Theatre in 1994.

"The day we closed," Martin said, "it became my personal quest to get it up again, and there were many times it almost happened, but no cigar. And then my dear friend Paul Annelli, who did the Olivia de Havilland role in the original production, passed away in 1998, and those are hard pumps to fill."

In something of a casting coup, Martin was able to snag Varla Jean Merriam (AKA Jeffrey Roberson) for the role of an aging Southern belle who may up to no good as she visits the haunted cousin Charlotte (the Davis role) at the family's plantation mansion. But a gig in Provincetown means Roberson must cede the role to Arturo Galster after the first month.

Martin and producer Steve Murray are ambitiously planning on a three-month run at the downtown Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, where they hope tourists and newcomers will augment a loyal fan base. "My goal," Martin said, "is for it to be as satisfying to someone who knows every word of the movie as it is to someone who knows nothing about it."

Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte, released in 1964, was an obvious effort to cash in on the success of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* two years

Man with the million-dollar legs.



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Bashu Parak

Our queer summer of love

Thirteen films to look out for this coming season

by David Lamble

My Summer of Love This decidedly quirky tale of young female lust in the Yorkshire hills features two edgy performances: Natalie Press as a depressed redhead whose born-again ex-hooligan brother has turned their dead parents' tavern into a holy-roller wayside chapel; and Emily Blunt as a bored and slightly too imaginative rich girl moping the summer away at a suspiciously empty family estate. Polish-born British director Pawel Pawlikowski has adapted an '80s novel by dropping its social realist baggage — striking coal miners, stock English eccentric characters, a sexual serial killer — and substituting a lyrically pessimistic, Central European sensibility that rubs speaking-in-tongues spiritual passion up against a hopelessly misguided friendship turned love affair, and begs us to see who survives the resulting train wreck. Not *Fun in Girl Shorts*, but two passionate girls having a very short bit of fun.

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Natalie Press
and Emily
Blunt in *My
Summer of
Love*.

Rubbing shoulders with the ruling class

Out There goes high society at swank Hawaiian resorts

by Roberto Friedman

quiet dinner quite away from it all, on the terrace of the Hotel Hana-Maui. Two men alone in candlelight, tropical flowers in a vase, the moonrise over paradise. Remember that feature in a recent Sunday *NY Times*, re "Mandates"? It was all about this supposed "trend" of straight guys going out on dates together, and it told us what was and was not permitted. For instance, guys on "mandates" could order glasses

of wine, but they could not share a bottle. Subtext: unless they want to be perceived as totally gay!

Needless to say, these two mandaters wen for the bottle. We knew we had been spotted by the only other pair of mandaters in Hana, Maui, when they came up to us next day and introduced themselves, a twosome from a university town back East named **Rob** and **Robert**. We joined them for a swim in the lava-rock pool, where they confided the waves crashing along the shore were keeping them awake at night. Fortunately, they had muscle relaxants.

We stayed in the kind of places that cost our month's salary. (Lucky we'd won the grand prize.) An even more luxurious resort awaited us a boat-ride away, the Manele Bay Hotel on "Hawaii's most exclusive island," Lanai. Soon we'd find out just how exclusive. Native décor included local surfers and the hotel bar's display of Fijian cannibal forks. There was more wild life a-frolic in the sea. Between us "man-



Poolside at the Manele Bay hotel on the island of Lanai, Hawaii

snorkelers," we saw a dolphin, a giant sea-turtle, a moray eel: scary! The flight off the island was on a cute little turboprop, from an airport the size of a 7-11. In the tiny waiting area, **Georg** suddenly whispered, "Roberto! Do you recognize that man right there in the black jacket?"

It was the same tone he'd used when **Marianne Faithfull** came up and stood right next to him at an SF afterparty. Something was up. "No."

"Do you recognize that blonde woman with him?" "No."

G. politely informed us, in the patient tones one might use to explain to a child, that they were former **Vice President Al & Tipper Gore**. OMG. Checking his BlackBerry, reading her magazine, waiting for the only flight, ours! The man who should be President right now, slumming on a commercial flight. Wheeling his own

suitcase, stowing it in the overhead bin. Big step down from Air Force One.

They sat up by the cockpit, the other passengers (all six of us) giving them space. But we could see the page of the *Wall Street Journal* he was reading. We could see he hogged their shared armrest. We wrote in the margin of our *New York Times*, "He's still my President," passed it to G., who began quietly sobbing.

"Darling, why are you crying?" "It's just such a tragedy. Not only for the country, but for the world."

No disputing it, but luckily G. got a grip. When our short flight landed in Honolulu, Al & Tipper led our tiny parade down the wheel-up stairs and across the tarmac to the terminal, holding hands, Al schlepping their luggage along behind them. At the airport door, a handler whisked them away.

None of our colleagues can believe we didn't try for the get. We had our 35mm camera with us, our notebook. But we're glad we didn't disturb them, private citizens on a well-deserved getaway vacation, not altogether unlike us.

Still, in our memoirs we may embellish a bit, so that as we made our way down the aisle, we

stopped in front of the Gores and said, "Sir, you will always be my President. Madame Tipper, always my First Lady." Our brush with greatness, watch for it.

Fashion police

The message scrawled on Out There's office notepad reads, "While you were away..."

"You missed some very, very important messages from some very, very important movers and shakers in the gay community."

"Congratulations, you couldn't have possibly planned it any better!"

Also while we were away, *Jeopardy!* had its \$2 million three-night tournament. Diligent game-show observers report that all three finalists seemed to be straight men, and one question (and their failure to answer it) confirmed that impression. On the second night, the category was "Haute Couture," and the clue was, "He was the designer of 1947's 'New Look.'" None of the otherwise well-informed trivia chumps, we mean champs, came up with **Christian Dior**. One guessed **Chanel**. Clearly, they had to be straight-impaired, as any self-respecting queen would have answered correctly, and in a nanosecond. Wasn't it *Evita* who memorably sang, "Christian Dior me?" Answer in the form of a question, please!

Go with the flow

History of a different sort was made by *Esquire* magazine with its featurette on "The Erection Seat," a bicycle seat designed to preserve penile blood flow — or, as the article put it, "to save you from the fate of **Bob Dole** and **Rafael Palmeiro**." *Esquire's* consumer columnist went for a 100-mile bike ride on the seat, after which he reported, "My ass isn't sore, and I can feel my balls (a good day in anyone's book). The guy I'm riding with, who's been sitting on a regular gel bike seat for seven hours, can't claim either of these things." Conclusion: "It's a comfortable seat that takes care of my 'nads." That's so sweet.

Survey says **Johnny Depp** looks like a demented **Michael Jackson** (redundant?) as **Willy Wonka** in the publicity photos for **Tim Burton's** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, the remake of the **Roald Dahl** classic coming to screens next month. Makes us

next page ►

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MUSIC

Summer's operatic turns

Three SF Opera offerings at War Memorial

by Stephanie von Buchau

I understood, even applauded the San Francisco Opera's foray into summer opera in the '80s, after decades of being just a cold-weather entertainment. The orchestra needed full-time work in order to qualify for the optimum salaries being paid its peers — and as pit bands go, it only has one peer, the James Levine-trained Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Also, stretching the season meant less concentrated repetitive stress on the players' fingers, arms and lips. Finally, San Francisco is swarming with tourists in June and July; why not send them home mouths agape at the quality of culture available in the City?

When the summer season was considered a "festival" — producing Wagner's complete *Ring*, series of operas by Mozart, Rossini and Strauss, and the entertaining *Ferrimes Fatales* trio — it was great fun, but in the last half-dozen years it has devolved into a scrawny tail wagging a scruffy dog, featuring repeats from the fall season (like this year's *Cosi fan tutte* with a slightly different cast and conductor) and a couple of unrelated works. Pamela Rosenberg gave every indication that after this year she was going to pull the plug. It remains to be seen if her successor, David Gockley, agrees, but I can't imagine him continuing in this haphazard manner.

That said, the two works playing this summer besides *Cosi* are worth attention, even though the way the season is being sold, all those naughty bare legs under a beach umbrella, makes one wonder if anybody in marketing has heard either opera. Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* has nothing to do with Beach Blanket hi-jinks. It is one of theater's great ghost stories, a lurid, thrilling drama of gambling obsession and madness that just happens to be graced with gorgeous orchestral and vocal music.

Queen of Spades is hard to sing and harder to act, but SFO has been particularly lucky with it in the past. Our first gambling Gherman ('63) was James McCracken; no tenor, nor even the great Russians I've heard, ever went bananas as convincingly as "Jimmy Crack Corn," Vladimir Atlantov was also wonderful in '93, the year that Leonid Rysanek sang the old Countess. She had been preceded



Soprano Katarina Dalayman.

by Regine Crespin ('87) and Regina Resnik ('63, '75). We've never had a satisfying Lisa (Galina Vishnevskaya was way past her prime in '75), but that should end on June 12 when a protégé of Rosenberg's, the young Swedish soprano Katarina Dalayman, makes her SFO debut. She's already been acclaimed for performances at the Metropolitan Opera.

The production, new to the War Memorial, and lauded in London as the "2000 Opera of the Year," is by John Macfarlane and Richard Jones. Remember them from the half-wonderful, half-horrific *Hansel and Gretel* of 2002? Music director Donald Runnicles conducts the dynamic, spooky, lyrical score, with Misha Didyk making his local debut as Gherman, and Hanna Schwarz as the creepy Countess.

My favorite recorded performance of *Queen of Spades* is conducted by Gergiev and stars Grigorian, Guleghina, Borodina and Arkhipova. On the DVD from the Kirov, Ludmila Filatova moves up from the Governess to a dying Countess more than ready for her close-up (both CD and DVD on Philips).

Rare 'Pearl'

Queen of Spades has a long and honorable history at SFO. Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, on the other hand, has been seen on the main stage only as part of Spring Opera ('62, '64, '67, '75). It is one of those lushly melodic, "Oriental" scores that fascinated the French in the mid-19th century and are loathed by Anglo and Teutonic critics as being too sugary, sentimental and pretty. If you are an opera novice, you may think you don't know the piece, but when

the tenor and baritone begin to sing "Au fond du temple saint" in Act I, the most famous and beloved male duet in all opera, you'll likely go, "Oh, I know that!"

While *Pearl Fishers* will never win any awards for subtlety, it is an agreeable love story with a happy ending. Let's hope so, anyway; you never can tell what the Demon Deconstructionists at SFO are going to dream up. Think of it as an Adam Sandler-Drew Barrymore romantic flick with better music. Leila is a virgin priestess only too willing to break her vows in order to pitch a little woo with Nadir (maybe that's where the beach umbrella comes in?). But they are thwarted by Nadir's best friend, Zurga, who also has a yen for Leila.

Conductor Sebastian Lang-Lessing is new to me, but Leila (Norah Amsellem) and Nadir



Charles Castronovo sings *Pearl*.

(Charles Castronovo) have been heard here before with good results. The production designed by Zandra Rhodes comes from San Diego.

My favorite *Pearl Fishers* recording is from Michel Plasson's Toulouse opera factory. Barbara Hendricks, John Aler and Gino Quilico are young, vulnerable and beguiling, if not ideally Gallic (EMI Classics). ▼

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Out There

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wonder about Wonka's relationship with those sweet little oompah-loompahs.

Artfully queer

Just in time for Pride Month comes word that City Art Cooperative Gallery will be exhibiting *Queer Art* through June 26. City Art is the real deal, owned and operated by local artists, where you can find affordable art (most in the \$100-\$400 range) made in the studios, lofts, and streets of San Francisco.

The gallery's make-up has been largely queer from its start in '98. The show's cutting-edge art will include this digital piece by BAR theatre critic **Richard Dodds**, who shows another side to his tal-



'Zippy,' digitally-manipulated image by Richard Dodds.

ents. The opening reception is on Friday, June 3, 7-10 p.m. at the 828 Valencia Street gallery. Queer performances are promised, fabulous attire is requested. More info at cityartgallery.org. ▼

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Matthew Martin

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before.

"*Baby Jane* was such a hit that they thought, 'Oh, let's do more of the same,' so they got the same crew and a bigger budget, and Bette Davis went to town. I think it's a crowd-pleaser because it's an incarnation of Bette people really know and love."

Just as *Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte* was a follow-up to *Baby Jane, Hush Up!* followed on the heels of the success of *Whatever Happened to B.B. Jane?*, another parody that ran for 10 months at the Victoria Theatre. So why not revive *B.B. Jane*, which was a bigger hit than *Hush Up!* the first time around?

"We've been talking about doing that for a long time, too," Martin said, "but it was much more of a drag burlesque, and a lot of the story was sacrificed. This, it's a murder mystery. It's Southern Gothic. It plays very much like Lillian Hellman."

Tap root

Martin, a San Francisco native, discovered his ear for vocal impressions as a boy, first imitating teachers before moving onto celebrities. He was also a tap dancing dynamo. "I was like Billy Elliot," he said. "And when you're tap dancing and you like Judy Garland at 7 years old, people will talk."

But his parents, he said, have always been supportive, and he recently did a tap number at their 50th anniversary party. "After a tap performance, without fail there will be one person who comes up to me in tears saying, 'My parents wouldn't let me...'"



Basil Parak

'I was a little leery of the drag thing, because people dismiss that.'

At age 19, he was cast as a replacement dancer during the SF run of *Sugar Babies* starring Ann Miller and Mickey Rooney. But he never got to go on. "It was still a thrill, and when Ann was at the Castro Theatre, I got to do Ann Miller for Ann Miller. You've got two choices in a situation like that. Try to be sensational or run."

Surprising now, perhaps, was his initial trepidation to tryout for *Whatever Happened to B.B. Jane?* "I was a little leery of the drag thing," he said, "because a lot of the time people dismiss that. I'd like to think I'm an actor. But finally it was, like, shut up, put on the wig and pinafore, and just do it. And now I'm doing the Bette Davis Memorial Theater."

In addition to his Davis turns in *B.B. Jane* and *Hush Up!*, Martin has also taken on her guise in a parody of the Davis movie *The Star*, a musical version of *All About Eve*, multiple productions of *Christmas with the Crawfords*, and the recent *Awe About Eve*, in which he played both Margo Channing and Addison DeWitt.

"After doing *Christmas with the Crawfords* here and then in New

York and Los Angeles, I became acquainted with Henry Farrell, who is the author of both *Baby Jane* and *Charlotte*, and I sent him a tape of our *Charlotte*. He sent me a letter that makes me cry. Getting kudos from him, I figured that's as good as it gets."

Bur Martin never seriously considered a move to New York or Hollywood, and he's content maintaining a day job as a legal aide with a law firm in the Marina. "I have a lot of starving actor friends, and I admire them, but the bread and butter affords me the chance to do things I really want to do."

His bosses at Finnegan, Marks, Hampton & Theofel have been flexible, letting him take time off for special projects. "They couldn't be more supportive," Martin said, "but the girls hate me for my million-dollar legs." ▼

Hush Up! Sweet Charlotte will run at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre through Aug. 31. Tickets are \$20-\$32. Call 474-8800 or go to makeitsoproductions.org.

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Six degrees of Katharine Hepburn

Kate Mulgrew beams in for 'Tea at Five'

by Richard Dodds

Thank God for gay audiences," says Kate Mulgrew. Straight men between the ages of 18 and 50 are the toughest, she attests.

Best known for her seven years as a *Star Trek* commander, Mulgrew is now playing Katharine Hepburn in the SF-bound *Tea at Five*. In the three years (off and on) she has been performing the solo show, she finds that a lot of gay men know their Hepburn.

"I think gay men are absolutely so much smarter about Hepburn and the women of that time, and they come armed with that knowledge," Mulgrew said during a quick visit to the city prior to the June 2-19 run of *Tea at Five* at Marines Memorial Theatre. "I have to win their responsiveness."

Her long run as Capt. Kathryn Janeway on the *Star Trek* spinoff *Voyager* was coming to an end when the script for *Tea at Five* arrived in the mail. Although she didn't know playwright Matthew Lombardo, Lombardo had written the play with Mulgrew in mind.

"My best friend, who has since died, and the playwright were great pals, and one day they were watching me on *Voyager*, and he



As the young Kate, 'this agitated, driven, witty, intelligent girl.'

said, 'That woman should play Katharine Hepburn.' And my friend said, 'You write it, and I'll get it to that woman.' He had it finished in three days."

In *Tea at Five*, named for a Hepburn family ritual, Mulgrew, who is 50, plays the 31-year-old Kate in the first act, and returns in the second as Hepburn at age 76.

"The polarity is what is so compelling," Mulgrew said. "The young Hepburn to me is not as interesting as the old one, but it's fundamental to the success of Act II to introduce this agitated, driven, witty, intelligent girl who feels her career is in jeopardy."

In the second act, Mulgrew said, we see the effects of a very conscious manipulation of image. "Had she taken just herself and had not fashioned herself into the Hepburn that we know, we might have been left with an interesting, okay actress, but not with this astounding creature whose legacy will never be forgotten. Nobody talks or walks or looks like that. All of that was studied until it became so natural that it was the identification."

The play has undergone changes at her behest since Mulgrew first performed it in 2002. "It's had its evolution, believe me," she said. "At first I had to come out in a bathing suit and change into some cocktail dress. It was outrageous." Now she's in trousers.

The content, too, has been filtered through Mulgrew's dicta: "I have a law, and I've implemented it and it's been honored," she said. "There have to be three sources of verification for everything that comes out of my mouth. Except for chronology, which is difficult to honor. We flip around a little bit. But all the Spencer Tracy stuff, and some of it is tough, and all the stuff about her brother Tom who committed suicide, which is tough, it's all true."

Out of the box

Tea at Five came at exactly the right time for Mulgrew, who had grown publicly weary of the *Voyager* grind. "I read the play in my dressing room at Paramount, and I thought, what a perfect antidote

to seven years in episodic television, to get out of the Delta Quadrant and onto a proper stage."

Mulgrew was performing *Tea at Five* in New York when Hepburn died in the summer of 2003. Asked if Hepburn's death was in some fashion liberating for her performance, Mulgrew took a pause. "It certainly wasn't crippling," she said. "As someone who was once a Catholic, I'm supposed to be absolutely honest, so I suppose I'd have to say yes."

Mulgrew grew up, yes, Catholic, as one of eight children in Dubuque, Iowa. By age 12, she had made it her main goal to get out of Dubuque, Iowa. At 17, she was studying acting at NYU, and dropped out to become a full-time actress at 19. "I had great confidence as only the very young have," she said. "And thank God, because you don't have very much else going on when you're that young."

But there was steady work on television, first in daytime soaps before landing several unlamented series. Mulgrew got married in the '80s, had two children and divorced. She remarried in '99 to Cleveland politician Tim Hagan, and she traveled throughout Ohio, often with the state's Stonewall Democrats, to help in his unsuccessful gubernatorial run in 2002.

She thought of making her primary home in Cleveland, but she remains based in New York while she and Hagan maintain a commuter marriage. But she was in fact in Cleveland when he suffered a massive heart attack last year, and she drove him to the hospital.

"You readjust but you don't bounce back from something like that," she said. "He's an extraordinary man, but I'm not going to nag him, and he's going to live his life. We just got back from Spain and had a wonderful time. I wanted so many things for so long, and now I count my blessings." ▼

Tea at Five will run June 2-19 at Marines Memorial Theatre. Tickets are \$38-\$58. Call 771-6900 or go to ticketmaster.com.

FILM

Chinese American meets proud lesbian

'Saving Face' bridges gap between cultures

by David Lamble

Ma, I love you, and I'm gay." "How can you say those two things at once?"

A young Chinese American woman, caught between the suffocating comfort zone of a suburban ethnic enclave and the fast-paced Manhattan world of lesbian love, spends a whole movie making great use of her MTA Metro Pass juggling the competing demands of the women in her life.

Saving Face is the film that Bay Area native Alice Wu dreamed of making when she quit her cozy software job and embarked on a "five-year plan" to complete her first feature.

"For the first four years, everyone said, 'I really like this script, but you're never going to get this made. It's Asian American, it's lesbian, it's half in Mandarin.' And sometimes people would be interested, but only if I would change a really critical part. 'Could you make it Latino? Latino's really big now.' And somebody actually wanted Reese Witherspoon to play the daughter, and Ellen Burstyn to play the mother. But I couldn't do it."

Wu jokes that she rejected so many would-be producers that "the only people left were ones who agreed with me and had access to financing." *Saving Face* was green-lighted by a Chinese American executive, Teddy Zee, employed by actor Will Smith.

Language, not lesbianism, was the real deal-breaker with most money people. "That was never negotiable. Because there's nothing more irritating to me than when I'm watching something that feels inauthentic. And there's just no way that those people in Flushing, Queens would all be speaking English to each other. You can't get more specific than this small community in Queens, a character's who's a doctor who's also a lesbian, yet people keep telling me that this reminds them of their Irish or their Jewish family."

Wu says that language was a factor in the casting, and she chose Michelle Krusiec for the assimilated but still-closeted daughter even though Krusiec could only speak Mandarin phonetically. Krusiec's Wilhelmina Pang, or Wil, is a surgeon just starting her residency who is also embarking on a hot girl affair when her still very attractive mother (veteran Chinese filmmaker Joan Chen) shows up on her doorstep unmarried, pregnant and very much in disgrace.

Joan Chen jokes that Wu considered her too youthful to play the mother. The moments when she started bonding with Krusiec, setting up their daughter/mother roles watching Chinese-TV soap operas, occurred over delicious meals, particularly spareribs.

Krusiec says she was extremely intimidated at first with the prospect of working with an actor of Chen's stature (*The Last Emperor*; Stanley Kwan's *Red Rose, White Rose*), but the real issue was whether her Mandarin could be brought up to speed so she could react to the mother's Chinese-lan-

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Alice Wu (right) directs Michelle Krusiec (left) and Lynn Chen (center).

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American idolatry

by Victoria A. Brownworth

As the defense rests in the Michael Jackson trial (talk about anti-climax!), we can all breathe easier now, knowing there's a new *American Idol* out there. Bo Bice, with his Meat Loaf looks and waist-length hair, was destined for runner-up status. Instead, the winner was Carrie Underwood, with her strong voice and sweet good looks. As Simon Cowell told Oprah on May 27, Underwood was the only contestant this time around whom Cowell thought capable of being a star "out there" beyond the *AI* stage.

But we have to agree with Barbara Walters on *The View*. Walters watched *AI* for the first time this week and was distinctly overwhelmed by the contestants, none of whom she thought was a star. Walters said she preferred Star Jones' lip-synching the previous day on *The View*, which was like watching a drag show on the Cas-

tro, but hey, it was entertaining.

The most fun on *AI* this season has been watching the cat-fight between Cowell and Paula Abdul. He told Oprah Abdul wants him. "I'm like a piece of meat in front of a dog who can't get it," he boasted. But we are over the whole *AI* phenomenon. And we are so over the tell-all about the show. Corey Clarke, his 15 minutes totally up after his allegation that he had an affair with Abdul, now asserts that Ryan Seacrest and Cowell are gay. Zzzzzzzz.

We don't care. People have been asserting that Seacrest (who could not look gayer if he were Dame Edna) is queer since he was born, but no ex-lovers have come forward to dish the reality dirt, so we are left to believe those showgirls he dates might actually be for

real. As for Cowell, just what we need: another queer Nazi. The tight T-shirt over the man boobs doesn't necessarily spell aging queen. Just take a look around the ballpark at a game.

But we did like the way the three judges came to Seacrest's defense on *Celebrity Justice*, claiming they had each slept with him and he was definitely not gay. Very amusing. And very gay.

Speaking of very gay in a tight T-shirt, Nate Berkus was on *Oprah* the other day, super-cute as ever. He gave Oprah a tour of his glorious old Chicago apartment, the centerpiece of which is photographic art done by his late partner Fernando, who was killed in the tsunami on December 26.

It was poignant the way he mentioned Fernando as he gave the tour of the fabulous place they had shared, and also very natural — great for the *Oprah* audience to see just what it means when queers lose their spouses. Juxtaposed with this reveal was his makeover of the apartment of a New York woman whose husband had died of cancer soon after the

birth of their daughter. Good job hammering that lesson home, Oprah.

Oprah also revealed that Halle Berry had asked Nate to father a child with her. We like how Oprah just drops these beads, educating her audience about tolerance in a super-subtle way. She really deserves her power.

Amazing grace

The Daytime Emmy extravaganza was bittersweet for us because Eden Riegel finally won for best younger actress, after several nominations. Alas, Riegel is no longer playing Bianca on *All My Children* (although she comes back for a brief run next week to attend her mother Erica's 10th wedding). But she looked lovely, and her speech was full of the grace her performance as daytime's only lesbian had been characterized by. She referred to the win as the cherry on the big sundae of her time at AMC, and said it was all the sweeter for not having won on previous occasions. We haven't missed a character so much since *Buffy* shut up shop.

Also winning at the Emmys was Ellen DeGeneres, in attendance with her model/actress lover Portia di Rossi and her mother, PLGTF activist Betty. We admit we had reservations when

she took to daytime, but *Ellen* is at least as good a show as *Rosie O'Donnell's* was, and *Ellen's* hi-jinks are always an enjoyable part of the experience. Is she as funny as she was doing stand-up? No, but then who is? But we do note that, unlike *Rosie*, *Ellen* is fully out on her show, and everyone knows it. The show is a subtle education in queer acceptance for a predominantly straight audience. She deserves an Emmy for that after-school special.

Now back to the closet. We were shocked, shocked that not a single news report on the untimely death of producer/director Ismail Merchant May 25 during surgery for abdominal ulcers referred to his 40-year relationship with director James Ivory.

It is 2005. This is not the era of E.M. Forster's *Maurice*, nor the set of Merchant/Ivory's *Remains of the Day*. When two men spend 40 years together and the obituaries read "Merchant never married," the reader is left with the impression of a life only partially lived. But Merchant and Ivory lived in the same apartment building for 40 years. Merchant repeatedly referred to himself as "a family man," and to Ivory and their friend and collaborator Ruth Prawer Jhabvala as "very much a

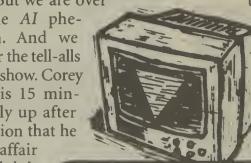
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FILM

13 summer films

◀ Arts cover

Dorian Blues This very smart comedy manages to combine sassy zingers about life in the family closet with an off-kilter coming out story that's hilarious and uncomfortably accurate. A first-rate ensemble cast headed up by TV's Michael McMillian makes the jokes pay off and sting. McMillian goes effortlessly from sweet, gangly and naive to angry and bitter in one of gay film's great comic tour de forces. The core of the piece is a nifty gay brother/straight brother bond against one of the most vividly depicted homophobic dads. Steven C. Fletcher is scary funny; imagine former Gov. Pete Wilson, if he had a personality.

The comedy *Dorian Blues* boasts a first-rate ensemble cast.

Sex, Politics and Cocktails A hilarious satire of LA dating rituals. First-time filmmaker Lazo Hernandez uses the gossipy, aggressive style of recent good gay comedies to poke fun at the way some trendy singles (of all persuasions) have practically invented live-in relationships. With pit stops of bossy bottoms, speed-dating and women with straps, the film establishes the true desperation of youngish unattached people before posing its own specific solutions.

Happy Endings One has high hopes for this multigenerational comedy from Don Roos, creator of '90s queer satire *The Opposite of Sex*. A very promising synopsis has Lisa Kudrow as a middle-aged woman dreading meeting a child she gave up for adoption, and Maggie Gyllenhaal as a young woman simultaneously involved with a rich widower (Tom Arnold) and his gay son.

Yes Sally Potter (Orlando) gives us scenes from a bad marriage. Joan Allen is an American scientist who's cheating on her proper British hubby (Sam Neil) with a Middle Eastern chief. Simon Abkarian steals the movie with a nuanced portrait of a man trapped between the best and worst of both cultures. Some beautiful rants flesh out a very grown-up view of life, death and love.

Tropical Malady Two sexy Thai men, a soldier (Banlop Lomnoi) and a country boy (Sakda Kaewbuadee), find their love affair becoming a tad too intense in a

drama from director Apichatpong Weerasethakul. The director plays with the notion that one of the lovers may or may not exist. Calling the film his "sorrow box," the director confesses a fascination for its jungle setting and for pushing the audience's tolerance for dimly-lit jungle images and a complex ambient soundtrack.

Me and You and Everyone We Know Writer/director Miranda July plays Christine, an artist working as an Eldercab driver. Christine is smitten by Richard (John Hawkes), a down-in-the-heels shoe salesman who is trying to raise two beautiful mixed-race sons himself. The film, suffused with a queer sensibility minus any overt homosexuality, manages to master that special territory of the novel: getting inside the heads of more than half-a-dozen characters without intrusive narration.

Wild Side Transsexual rent girl Sylvie meets North African hustler, Jamie, and the duo form a menage with Mikhail, an undocumented Russian worker. The queer fireworks come courtesy of writer/director Sebastien Lifshitz.

Guys and Balls In Sherry Hormann's athletic comedy, after a gay baker is kicked off the local soccer team in Dortmund, Germany, he sets out to organize an all-queer squad to exact revenge on his old mates.

The Edukators German film fans now have their own Gael-like hottie, with acting chops to boot. Daniel Bruhl heads up a charismatic ensemble in this caper with

comic pacing, about a youthful trio out to resurrect the romantic "innocence" of post-war student anarchism. An idealistic young girl (Julia Jentsch) is torn between passions for both of her humpy accomplices (Bruhl and Stipe Erceg) in a joy-riding series of break-ins on middle-class villas. Austrian-born Hans Weingartner employs Dogma film aesthetics to complement a *Jules and Jim* romantic sensibility. There's irony, passion and surprises galore in the showdown between the young rebels and a middle-aged businessman they've abducted.

Hustle and Flow Craig Brewer's film details the midlife crisis of a Memphis pimp who turns his shotgun house into a recording studio. Brewer got a big assist when director John Singleton godfathered the project. A Sundance bidding war ended with the picture sold for a cool \$9 million.

With a saucy cast that includes the talented D.J. Qualls (skinniest white boy on the planet), Brewer is out to illustrate something a very proper Memphis lady once told him about the letters in the grand old city's name. "Making Easy Money Pimping Hoes in Style."

Caterina in the City Sergio Castellitto plays an ineffectual bully father who quits his small-town teaching job to expose his reluctant daughter to the benefits of life in the big city, Rome. The daughter finds herself in a social war between rival schoolgirl cliques. Director Paolo Virzì balances the twin stories of the father's humiliation by his social betters with his daughter's fate at the hands of a spoiled rich boy. A neat subplot has the daughter spied on by a camera-wielding cute boy with better intentions.

Cinderella Man Queer film buffs who turn their noses up at hetero male blood sports should say 12 "Hail Mary's" for this sublimely sentimental but genuinely moving tale of a once-forgotten Irish boxer turned dockworker, Russell Crowe, as James J. Braddock, and director Ron Howard spend more than half the picture filling us in on the gritty realities of a fighter, once the toast of Broadway, who finds himself unable to pay the light bill. The film frames very brutal fights along Braddock's comeback trail with snapshots of Depression-era America. While Crowe may miss out on the Oscars won by *Million Dollar Baby*, look for a serious bid by supporting actor Paul Giamatti as Braddock's fairy godmother-like Jewish trainer. ▼



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Remembering Ismail Merchant

by Stephanie von Buchau

Ismael Merchant, film producer, writer, director, chef and bon vivant, died in London last week after a short illness. He was 68. The casual moviegoer may not recognize the name, but everybody knows about "Merchant Ivory," a nasty catch-phrase for the uninformed and unfair opinion that Merchant and his partner, film director James Ivory, produced only decorative, soft-centered period costume dramas in the 44 films they made collectively since becoming "Merchant Ivory Productions" in 1961.

Merchant, who was born in Bombay, the center of the Indian film industry — hence the nickname "Bollywood" — was captivated by movies at an early age. A restless kid, he dropped out of school while trying to "make it" in movies. Eventually he ended up at New York University, where he took a Masters in business and met Ivory, a film buff from Klamath Falls, Oregon. They became personal and professional partners, founding Merchant Ivory with the German-born writer



Born in Bollywood, loved movies.

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala. From all evidence, theirs was a successful relationship of opposites. Ivory is a quiet, distant intellectual, while Merchant was a vibrant, ebullient con man with a humanitarian streak.

Their first feature, *The Householder*, was made in India in 1963, but it was their next film, *Shakespeare Wallah* ('65), that put them on the map. It's a tender but sharply satirical look at a down-at-the-heels British drama troupe barnstorming India with the Bard. It made an international star of the impossibly handsome Shashi Kapoor, and for some (this writer included) remains the most honest and appealing of all Merchant Ivory films.

With Merchant scrounging financing (and cooking fabulous meals on a shoestring for casts and co-workers), Ivory directed a series of movies written by Jhabvala that made Merchant Ivory famous and garnered them 31 Oscar nominations. Some of my favorites include *Heat and Dust* ('84), Kapoor again, now middle-aged, fumbling with Greta Scacchi's underwear in one of the funniest yet most erotic scenes in film; *Room with a View* ('86), the gay reverend Simon Callow cannonballing naked into a bucolic stream; *Remains of the Day* ('93), Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson in breathtaking form; and the off-beat *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries* ('98).

Gay affair

Yes, there are also some tin-eared clunkers, notably *Jefferson in Paris*, *Surviving Picasso* and *Le Divorce*, but it doesn't hurt to remember that even a demonstrably great director like John Huston made *Annie* and *The Barbarian and the Geisha*. Of more interest is *Maurice* (pronounced "Morris"), the 1987 film version of E.M. Forster's suppressed, gay-themed 1914 novel. It stars James Wilby as Maurice and Hugh Grant as Clive, his feckless lover, a handsome young man whose character does not equal his looks. Good acting is a characteristic of Merchant Ivory films, and here, when Clive rejects real love in favor of society-approved marriage, we realize from just a few painful facial expressions how miserable this man is going to be.

Merchant was not content to raise money for films, write cookbooks and feed armies of friends and co-workers. He also wanted to direct. He eventually made four features, starting with his 1994 debut, *In Custody*, an improbable comedy about whether Urdu or Hindi was the most suitable official language for poetry. This is actually an ongoing debate in India, but before your eyes glaze over, *In Custody*, starring Kapoor again, now as a fat, old man, is simply one of the drollest literary movies I've ever seen.

His other great film, the most powerful of all Merchant Ivory movies, is *Cotton Mary* (2000), starring the sublime Madhur Jaffrey (who was Kapoor's mother in *Heat and Dust*). As an Anglo-Indian nurse nostalgic for "the old days" and apparently unaware that the British look down on her as a "half-breed," Mary ingratiate herself into an Anglo household (Greta Scacchi again), where she wrecks havoc on herself and the British family. The saddest part is that Mary thinks she is doing "good." Whenever I read the "Merchant Ivory" sneer (someone on Amazon.com recently referred to Merchant Ivory films as "chick flicks"), I want to stuff a video of *Cotton Mary* down their gullet. Ismail, we will miss you. ▼

Lavender Tube

◀ page 36

family."

Forgive us, but if the cameras can pan to the gorgeous Portia di Rossi planting a kiss on her partner Ellen at the Emmys, why isn't it possible to include the partner of a distinguished filmmaker in his obituary? Is it just that two blonde lesbians making out in public warrant attention, and the 40-year partnership of two old guys does not?

Cruise control

For what seems like several lifetimes, Tom Cruise has been fighting the gay label. His 11-year marriage to Nicole Kidman, and their two children, did not quell the rumors. Nor did his oddly passionless relationship with actress Penelope Cruz. At one point, Cruise sued a tabloid for stating he was queer and won a sizable settlement, which he gave to charity.

Enter Katie Holmes (*Joey*, *Dawson's Creek*). Holmes, sweet,

gorgeous and a mere 26 to Cruise's 41, is the actor's new obsession. In Howard Hughes fashion, he acquired her by calling her up, inviting her over on the pretense of wanting to discuss some film project, and it's been *Roman Holiday* ever since. Last week, he spent a full hour on *Oprah* gushing like a little girl about his adoration for Holmes. Even Oprah seemed nonplussed, and nothing fazes her.

Those who know Cruise have stated off the record for years that the issue isn't that he's gay, but that he's asexual. Holmes seems to have flipped his switch from off to on, or he's found the tall girl (she's got a few inches on him) of his dreams.

Or, as Jimmy Kimmel opined on his May 27 show, "Cruise has been on a 48-hour 'I'm straight-a-thon' talking about Katie Holmes." We witnessed Cruise and Holmes mouthing I-love-you's to each other on *Oprah*, just like two kids on the *Creek*. Cruise let slip to Oprah that he's thinking of popping the question to Holmes, whose

page 45 ▶

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FILM

Divine diva madness

**Behind the making of the film
'Hush ... Hush, Sweet, Charlotte'**

by Tavo Amador

The filming of *Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte* ('64), the Southern Gothic melodrama that inspired the drag take-off now at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, *Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte*, was crazier than anything in the actual movie. *Charlotte* was originally planned as a re-teaming of Joan Crawford and Bette Davis, following their unexpected box-office success in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* ('62). Crawford was cast as stylish, treacherous Miriam out to defraud her eccentric, haunted cousin Charlotte (Davis), whose lover had been murdered years earlier. Tired of Davis's hostility, however, Crawford withdrew under circumstances suggestive of an old B-picture. Olivia de Havilland replaced her.

The Crawford-Davis rivalry exploded while making *Charlotte*, but as Shaun Considine shows in his juicy, out-of-print tome *Bette and Joan: The Divine Feud*, it had simmered for decades. Davis (1908-89) arrived in Hollywood in '31 after some Broadway successes, but wasn't considered sexy enough for movie stardom in a glamour-obsessed era. She proved skeptics wrong, and by '34 was a star at Warners, insisting she was a serious actress, not a glamour queen. The epitome of Hollywood glamour and the object of Davis' scorn was Crawford (1904-77), MGM's biggest female draw from 1930-36, and a star since silent movies.

In '35, Davis' resentment became personal. While making *Dangerous*, which earned her an Oscar, she fell in love with co-star Franchot Tone, scion of a wealthy New York family and founding member of the Group Theatre. But when filming ended, he married Crawford.

In the late '30s, Crawford's popularity waned while Davis' soared. She won a second Oscar for *Jezabel* ('38), while Crawford was labeled box-office poison. *The Women* ('39) and *A Woman's Face* ('41) were hits, but in '43, after 18 years, Crawford left MGM for Warners, where Davis reigned supreme. Davis resisted Crawford's friendly overtures, suggesting there was a touch of lesbianism in them. When Davis passed on *Mildred Pierce* ('45), Crawford grabbed it, winning an Academy Award. Davis' popularity now dipped while Crawford's rose. After making the camp classic *Beyond the Forest* ('49), Davis left Warners. Crawford had replaced her as Queen of the Lot.

All About Eve ('50) briefly resurrected Davis' career, but none of her subsequent films during the decade did well, although she mercilessly satirized Crawford in *The Star* ('52). Crawford left Warners to triumph with *Sudden Fear* ('52), but had no other hits in the '50s. She had long sought a vehicle for them, and suggested a movie version of Henry Farrell's novel *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* to director Robert Aldrich. In '61, Davis was on Broadway in Tennessee Williams' *Night of the Iguana*, unhappy because co-star Margaret Leighton had eclipsed her. Crawford visited her backstage, giving her a copy of *Jane*.



Posing for *Life* magazine. When Joan left the film, the photos were killed.

The stars denied feuding, and Crawford claimed that Davis, in the title role, naturally got first billing. But Davis worked hard to upstage her rival and remained indifferent, sometimes rude, to Crawford's attempts at collegiality. She found Crawford's graciousness "phony," and ridiculed her obsession with glamour. Davis earned an Oscar nomination for *Jane*, but Crawford didn't. While Davis actively campaigned for the award, Crawford volunteered to accept the prize for the other nominees not attending the ceremony. When Anne Bancroft won, Crawford gleefully received the Oscar for her and, according to *Time*, "was the triumph of the evening." Veteran gossip columnist Hedda Hopper wrote, "I was rooting for Bette, but no one is better at giving or stealing a show than Joan Crawford." Davis was further infuriated because Crawford made more money from *Jane* than she did, having accepted a smaller salary but a larger percentage of the profits.

Fighting for top

Aldrich had Farrell write *Charlotte* for the divas, and Davis agreed to star — sans Crawford. Without Crawford, however, no studio would adequately finance the picture, so Davis reluctantly authorized Aldrich to approach her nemesis. Despite reservations, Crawford consented, provided she got top billing. A ballistic Davis had to accept alphabetical listing of their names. Crawford knew most people would simply see her name first.

During location-shooting in Louisiana, Davis plotted her revenge. When Crawford arrived, she found Davis had been there for several days, befriending the crew and cast, including Joseph Cotton, Agnes Moorehead, Mary Astor, and Bruce Dern. She excluded Crawford from her social gathering while inviting everyone else. Crawford, drinking heavily, feeling

isolated, feared Davis' *Grand Guignol* act would again outshine her. Furthermore, Davis openly ridiculed her performance. Crawford wouldn't respond, but complained privately to Aldrich — whom she felt was on Davis' side. When filming resumed in Hollywood, Crawford suddenly was hospitalized with vague ailments. She told Hopper she was "improving" the script — expanding her role — while bedridden. Back on the set, she found most of her requested changes had been rejected. She was re-hospitalized with a "rare" respiratory infection. Released from the hospital, she returned to her apartment. At Davis' insistence, private detectives staked out the building, but Crawford eluded them, further angering her rival. Her continued "illness" delayed production so long that Aldrich sought a replacement.

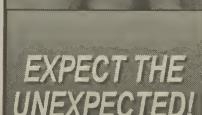
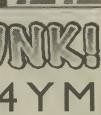
First choice Katharine Hepburn never responded to the offer. Vivien Leigh declined. "I can just about stand looking at Joan Crawford's face at six o'clock in the morning, but not Bette Davis." Furious, Davis insisted the "very British Miss Leigh" couldn't play a Southerner, ignoring Leigh's Oscars for *Scarlett O'Hara* and *Blanche duBois*. Finally, Davis' old friend de Havilland agreed to play Miriam. Davis informed the press before Aldrich told a re-hospitalized Crawford, who heard it on the radio. Wearing a Christian Dior nightgown and a sapphire necklace, she told reporters, "I'm glad for Olivia. She could use the work."

Initially delighted, Davis was disappointed at not getting another Oscar nod. Ironically, given Crawford's fears, de Havilland's silky villainess stole the movie. *Charlotte* wasn't as successful as *Jane*, and Davis didn't participate in the '64 Oscar ceremony. But a recovered, radiant Crawford presented the Best Director award to her friend, the openly gay George Cukor, for *My Fair Lady*. ▶



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OUT & ABOUT



Steve Chu

The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance puts on *Coming of Age: GAM in America* at SomArts Cultural Center. See Friday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Close encounters

A couple of weeks ago I ran into **Spencer Day**, literally, as he was out grabbing a sandwich at a local deli. Graciously, he invited me into the recording studio where he was in the process of making an album. There in that temple/sanctuary to musical creativity, Day was orchestrating a take for one of his numbers, featuring the fabulous Turtle Island String Quartet, one of the top names in the business. As producers and techies buzzed about, Day presided over all, munching his sandwich, admiring the musicians, letting me know he was on a roll, career-wise. He's the toast of San Francisco, right now, with the whole world at his feet. Of course he's presently putting on a show at **New Conservatory Theatre Center** along with his **Crimson Club** mates. In a brilliant move for all involved, the musical romp is directed cabaret legend **Richard "Scrumby" Koldewyn** of Cockettes fame and beyond. Please note: This is an historic move. Scrumby has been a major force in queer cabaret since back in the 1970s. He qualifies as a living legend. He now joins with the newest, most exciting force in cabaret, the Crimson Club gang, who in so many ways resemble the Cockettes of yore, but with a less hippy demeanor. They're more uptown. Spencer described the show to me as "light fare," but in his hands, even the lightest material sparkles. I'm a huge fan of the Crimson Club, having been at The Stud right from the start, when Day first made an impact on our psyches. Why do I never tire of saying this? Because it's been an amazing journey! I marvel at each new gig they produce. The Crimson Club line-up has changed many times (remember Trixxie Carr?), but the man with real staying power is **Brian Knecht**, Day's long-time friend, who's been shaping up for some time as a sleek, top-hat-and-tails performer with a twinkle in his eye. He's sly and witty and brings out the best in Day. Then there's **Gerri Lawlor**, who since joining the Crimson Club a year or two ago has been the center of attention, grabbing huge laughs with her remarkable distorted facial expressions and body language, coupled with a devastating sense of comic timing.

Another must-see show is the return of **Varla Jean Merman** together with **Matthew Martin** in *Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte*, opening at **Lorraine Hansberry Theatre**. I was fortunate to be in the audience when producer **Steve Murray** previewed the act during *Viva Variety* 47, which as always was a smash hit with the audience. These grand ladies are going to have you doubling over with hysterics! Their superstar status is well deserved. In fact, the drag divas were up against stiff competition in Murray's latest showcase, where fortunately everyone shined magnificently, including comic cabaret chanteuse **Miss Peggy Judy**; the flappers/women's prison inmates of the wildly wonderful **Diamond Daggers** dance troupe; the wonderfully earthy, wry, right-on comic **Audre the Wonderwoman**; the great crooner **Bill Cooper**, accompanied by pianist **Barry Lloyd**, doing a grand "I'm Alive!"; and that down-home banjo-pickin', fiddlin', foot-stompin' bluegrass group the **Mercury Dimes**, who made everyone feel they were out in the country husking pigs and milking corn, or whatever.

It's going to be a great Pride season! All this and much, much more is heading your way. Our town is on a roll! ▼



Spencer Day and the Crimson Club cabaret crew get romantic with "Someday, Love" at NCTC. Opens Saturday, June 4.

Fri 3

Medea: The Musical

@ Theatre Rhinoceros
Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Medea: The Musical*, a rollicking backstage musical of love, lust, adventure and ambition, written/directed by John Fisher (The Joy of Gay Sex, Combat!, Titus, Amnesia). \$15-\$28. Runs thru June 19. 8pm Wed-Sat; 3pm & 7pm Sun. (no 3pm on 5/29). The Rhino, 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission & Van Ness). Tix: 415-552-4100 ext 104; therhino.org

Jess Curtis/Gravity: Touched

@ YBCA Forum
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in conjunction with the SF Int'l Arts Festival presents Jess Curtis/Gravity in "Touched: Symptoms of Being Human" — an interdisciplinary dance/performance. Touch is one of the most basic of human experiences, the physical foundation of human interaction and a ripe metaphor for human society. In "Touched", the performers of Jess Curtis/Gravity explore the physical and theatrical possibilities of touch: its ability to move the body into new dimensions, its ability to heal, and its potential to destroy. \$25 Regular/\$19 members, students, teachers/\$23 seniors. Runs Thu.-Sun., June 2-5, 8pm. YBCA Forum, 701 Mission St. @ 3rd. Tix: 415-978-ARTS (2787); www.YBCA.org

Coming of Age: GAM in America

@ SomArts Cultural Center
Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) presents "Coming of Age: GAM in America", a multimedia event featuring visual



art, spoken word and performance exploring what it means to be gay and American when one is of Asian & Pacific Islander (API) heritage. Food & drink, silent auction, and an informal program celebrating the queer API community. In addition to appearances by Mr. & Miss GAPA, GAPA Men's Chorus, and other special guests, the event will also mark the unveiling of G-2006, the 2006 full-color calendar produced by GAPA and featuring winners of GAPA's nationwide photo contest. Presented in association with the Queer Cultural Center as part of the National Queer Arts Festival. Free. 7pm. SoMaArts, 934 Brannan. Info: calender@gapa.org

QLAF: The Danger of Bleeding Brown

@ LGBT Center
2005 Queer Latino Arts Festival presents a staged reading of the play-in-progress, *The Danger Of Bleeding Brown*. A young professor at Cal has his boundaries pushed by his relationship with one of his students, a young gay Latino, whose own internalized racism manifests in edgy sex play that tests the limits of their relationship. Sex, BDSM, drugs, violence, seedy San Francisco alternaque nightife, trannies, and so much dirty German that it's almost educational. The reading will be directed by Mary Guzman (film "Des's Looking For A New Girl"). Friday June 3 at 8pm. LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St.

Whoop-Dee-Doo! @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten presents *Whoop-Dee-Doo!*, directed by Ed Decker, with musical direction by Michael O'Dell and choreography by Tom Segal. Conceived/Written by Charles Cataneo, Howard Crabtree, Dick Gallagher, Peter Morris and Mark Walder. In this prequel to *When Pigs Fly*, host and costume designer Howard Crabtree triumphs over a tiny budget, balky actors, and a near electrocution to produce a dizzy collage of songs and sketches. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. Showtimes 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Donna Sachet

@ Pan Pacific Hotel

Tin Pan Alley Productions presents chanteuse Donna Sachet in a Pride 2005 kick-off concert. \$25 plus two-drink minimum. Fri., June 3. Doors at 7:30; show at 8:30pm. The Pan Pacific Hotel, 500 Post St. at Mason. Tix/info: The Pan Pacific at 415-929-2018; Tin Pan Alley at 415-923-1452 or Stu@tinpanalley.org

Royal New Zealand Ballet

@ YBCA

The SF Int'l Arts Festival presents the Royal New Zealand Ballet performing the US premieres of two works, *Milagros and the Celebrated Soubrette*, by choreographer Javier de Frutos, and *A Million Kisses to my Skin* by David Dawson. \$20 & \$35 reserved seating. 8pm Fri. & Sat., June 3 & 4. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Tix: 415-978-ARTS (2787); www.sfindartsfest.org

Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte @ Lorraine Hansberry Theatre
Opening night gala: Make It So Productions presents International Drag Superstar Matthew Martin as "Charlotte" and Varla Jean Merman (aka Jeffery Roberson) as "Miriam" in *Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte*, directed by Matthew Martin, a side-splitting parody of the original book & cult film *Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (1964) which starred Bette Davis and Olivia DeHavilland. Cast includes Andréa C. Andreé, Michael Sousa, Sandra Schlechter, Erika Atkinson, Vince Calabrese, Woody Clark, and Kai Brothers. \$20 previews (June 1-3); \$27-\$32 other nights (\$5 off students, seniors, groups of 10). Opening Night Gala on Sat., June 4. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. at Mason (Union Square). Tix/info: 415-474-8900; TIX Union Square ticketweb.com. Info: www.makeitsoproductions.org

Sun & Wind Day

@ Randall Museum

The Randall Museum's Sun & Wind Day celebrates World Environment Day and the opening of the new exhibit "Endless Energy—Power for a Small Planet," with hands-on family activities exploring power from the sun & wind. Features include a full scale working Aeroturbine, a Wind Wall creating ever-changing cityscape with magnetic shapes and pinwheels, and a Neighborhood Model, which demonstrates how you can turn a community, primarily



"Ecstasy" at the Citadel: dance in a new way, in a sacred sex space. See Wednesday.

powered by fossil fuels, into a "green" neighborhood. Kids and families invited. Free. 10am-3pm. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Info: 415-554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org

Greenaction Celebration

@ St. Boniface Church

Greenaction's 8th Annual Celebration of Struggles & Victories for Environmental Justice. Featuring Mohave Bird Singers from Colorado River Indian Tribes; Malcolm X Polynesian Dancers; Zulu Dancers; Hunters View Childrens Choir; Community Environmental Justice Leaders; Raffle, food, beverage, action video. \$5-\$100 + sliding (NOTAFLOR). Sat. June 4 @ 7pm. St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Ave (btwn Leavenworth & Jones near Civic Center). Info: 415-248-5010; greenaction.org

Sara Waddell Lewinstein/Jock Talk'

@ GLBT Historical Society

The "Jock Talk" speaker series welcomes early lesbian softball and Gay Games organizer Sara Waddell Lewinstein, who will share memories about lesbian softball in the 1970s, the formation of the Gay Games, and much more about building lesbian and gay community through sports in the Bay Area. The "Jock Talk" series accompanies the Historical Society's Main Gallery exhibit, "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today," curated by Jim Provenzano. Free. Sat., June 4, 3:30-5:30pm. GLBT Historical Society & Museum, 657 Mission St., Ste. 300 (btwn New Montgomery & Third). Info: 415-777-5455; www.glbthistory.org

Illusion 3

@ Mission Cultural Center

One-time-only event: "Illusion 3," curated by Adrian Arias. Working with the theme of "Trans-Portation," Illusion 3 involves three hours and 30 artists working in all media, within a pristine white space, surrounded by the audience, which is asked to wear dark clothing. The artists will arrive at 6pm from the 24th St. BART station. All dressed in white, they will each carry a white suitcase to hold their materials for their work. \$5. 6-9pm. Mission Cultural Center for Latin Arts, 2868 Mission St. Info: 415-821-1155.

Matteo Imbruno

@ Church of St. John

In concert: Matteo Imbruno, organist at the Oude Kerk, Amsterdam, with resident organist Charles Rus, performing Corelli, Gabrielli, Sweelinck, Buxtehude and Bach. Including music for two meantone organs and Italian harpsichord by Gary Blaise and



Ghosttown Productions presents "AIDS: The Made for TV Musical!" at New College of California. See Tuesday.

St. John's 103-year-old Moller/DeCamp organ. Reception following. \$10. 5pm. Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, 15th St. & Julian Ave.

SF Cable Car Chorus @ Presentation Theater, University of SF

The SF Cable Car Chorus presents its 60th anniversary show, "Reminiscence in Harmony," featuring American Music in the Barbershop Style with guest quartets Velocity and Underage. \$10-\$20. 2pm & 8pm. USF's Presentation Theater. Info: 415-564-2875; www.sfcablecarchorus.org

Sun 5

Jim Winters @ Glama-Rama

Opening reception: Local artist Jim Winters presents a solo show of artwork inspired by travels to titanic locales. Work includes paintings, drawings, wall stencils and a screen-printed poster. Drawing from signage, patterns, tourist sites and people he met (and those he wish he could have met) in Europe to Dolly Parton's famed Tennessee amusement park, Winters' work is an eclectic mix of portraiture, graffiti style stenciling and pop-cultural ephemera. Info: www.jimwinters.com or www.glamarama.com

SFinX @ Jon Sims Center

SFinX: San Francisco in Exile Live at JSC. In preparation for the hedonism of Pride, an evening of performance about the worst dates of our lives. Serving the bad date stew will be: Billie Mandel, Nadyalee Hijazi, Sherilyn Connally, Linda Susan Ulrich, Danny Nguyen, Sara Moore and more! \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Sat., June 4 at 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (11th). Info/Res: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimscstr.org

SF Hiking Club

Outing begins and ends in the dark redwood forests of San McDonald County Park; in between are the sun-dappled trails straddling Pescadero Creek. It's a moderate 10-mile hike with a 1,600-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:45am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: sfhiking.com

Outlook

@ Comcast Channel 29

Watch "Outlook", the Bay Area's oldest LGBT video magazine, at 5pm Sun., June 5 on Comcast Channel 29 in San Francisco. This month, join Gay Asian Pacific Alliance as they march in San Francisco's Chinese New Year's Parade. David Sundy of Active-Healing.Net discusses alternative massage techniques that can benefit arthritis, sports injuries, and HIV. Hosted by Roberta Gonzalez Gregg and Tom Smith. For info on our airdates in the East Bay, San Jose, the South Bay, Sacramento & Santa Cruz, visit OutlookVideo.org & click AirDates.

Mon 6

Adrienne Miller

@ ACWL Place for Books

The Coast of Akron is the witty first novel by Esquire literary editor Adrienne Miller, peopled by a most unusual Midwestern family full of artists and liars, wannabe aristocrats and secret-keepers. Free. 7pm. A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness Ave. (at Opera Plaza). Info: 415-441-6670; www.bookstore.com

Doug Dowd's Course on Economics @ Modern Times

Doug Dowd's popular course on economics

meets the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month from now until Sept. 20. Dowd is an academic, author & political activist. His most recent book is *And It's Each for Himself and God for All*. 7pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. Info: 415-282-9246.

Tue 7

AIDS: The Made for TV Musical @ New College

Ghosttown Productions, the experimental theater company, presents "AIDS: The Made for TV Musical!" — a new rock-theater extravaganza that looks into what could happen when a cure for AIDS is discovered. In this darkly comedic vision, those resistant to the cure are quarantined in a house, destined to live out their remaining days on a global reality TV show. Directed by Dwayne Calizo & Zachary Barnett. Music, lyrics & concept by Calizo. Movement collaboration with Jessica Fudim. \$10-\$15 (NOTA). June 7-11 @ 7pm. 777 Valencia St. (btwn 18th/19th). Res: 415-437-3487. Info: www.eplarts.org

Kate Mulgrew/Tea At Five @ Marines Memorial Theatre
Kate Mulgrew (*Star Trek: Voyager*) stars as legendary actress Katharine Hepburn in Matthew Lombardo's *Tea At Five*, a one-woman play directed by John Tillinger. \$38-\$58 (\$35 for previews). Opening night on Tue., June 7. 8pm. Runs thru June 19. Tue.-Fri. at 8pm; Sat. at 2pm & 8pm; Sun. at 2pm. 609 Sutter St., 2nd Floor. Tix: 415-771-6900; ticketmaster.com

Radar Reading @ Main Library

Robert Gluck, Katia Noyes, Christopher Cook and Gay Braverman take part in the "Radar Reading" series hosted by literary diva Michelle Tea. Free. 6-7:30pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Stand-Up Comedy @ Harvey's

Harvey's serves up Queer and Queer-Friendly Stand Up Comedy. This week: Aundre the Wonderwoman, Yayne Abeba, Chantal, Nick Leonard. Hosted by Pippi Lovestocking and headlined by Ronn Vigh. It's comedy in the Castro by and for gay men, gay women, and those that love them. Free. Tue., June 7 at 9:30pm. (Shows run 1st and third Tuesdays). Harvey's, 18th & Castro. Info: standup-sf@Hotmail.com

Wed 8

Ian Ayres @ ADL Bookstore

Ian Ayres, co-author (with Jennifer Brown) of the new book, *Straightforward: How to Mobilize Heterosexual Support for Gay Rights*, will give practical advice about what allies can do to support gay rights, and call on allies to become more visible and more vocal. Free. Wed., June 8, 7pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: www.straightforwardbook.com

JSCinema @ Jon Sims Center

As part of the National Queer Arts Festival JSCinema will host a work-in-progress screening of *Between Places* along with *Aliens: We've Come for your Children*. Both works look into issues of immigration and being. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Wed., June 8 at 8:00pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission Street (11th). Info/Res: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimscstr.org

Ecstasy @ The Citadel

"Ecstasy," a performance installation, presented as part of the National Queer Arts Festival. Directed and choreographed by Joe Landini. For Mature Audiences. Is life just a journey to find the perfect moment of ecstasy? Is everything in between just a waiting period between hits of E? Is there really any difference between the religious and the sexual when it comes to the ecstatic experience? Join Landini examines the human pursuit of ecstasy in this provocative piece. With Annick Crawford, composer. Landini has presented his work in New Mexico, Mexico City, London and extensively throughout California. Tickets \$10-\$20. Wednesdays, June 8, 15 & 22 at 8pm & 9pm. The Citadel, 245 Eighth St. Tix: (415) 289-2000. Information (415) 885-4006; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Thu 9

David Sedaris @ Booksmith

In *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* (now in paperback), David Sedaris plays in the snow with his sisters. He goes on vacation with his family. He gets a job selling drinks. He attends his brother's wedding, etc. It all sounds so normal, doesn't it? Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight St. Info: 415-863-8688; booksmith.com

Mark D. Jordan @ A Different Light Bookstore

Author Mark D. Jordan introduces his new book *Blessing Same-Sex Unions*. Do queer Christians really seek the blessing of God? Or just the garish melodrama of a white wedding? A book for both sides of the debate over gay marriage in America today. Free. 7pm. ADL Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.

LYRIC Champions Awards Gala @ Green Room

LYRIC Celebrates Seventeen Years of Service to Queer Youth with its LYRIC's Annual Champions Awards. In 1988, two young women, Donna Ozawa and Beth Kivel, dreamed about creating a safe and fun place for SF Bay Area lesbian and gay youth. Their dream lives on as the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), which celebrates its 17th anniversary this year's Champions Awards Gala. Honors this year go to: Joshua Dante Donatto, President of the Gay Straight Alliance at International Studies High School; Alexander L. Lee, Esquire, a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow and founder of the TGI Justice Project; and GLSEN SF-East Bay. \$75 per person, or \$25 for LYRIC Alumni and free for youth 25 (25 for trans youth) and under. Thu., June 9 from 6-9pm. The Green Room, War Memorial Veteran's Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: Melissa White at 415-703-8510 ext. 39; email melissa@lyric.org

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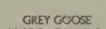
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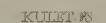
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Michael Egdes wins IML 2005

Florida man edges out 51 contenders

by Mister Marcus

As thousands cheered in the beautifully cavernous Navy Pier on Chicago's North side last Sunday evening, May 29, a strapping, handsome Michael Egdes from Fort Lauderdale, Florida was named International Mr. Leather 2005. He also holds the title Mr. Ramrod Leather 2005, named for a bar in Fort Lauderdale, San Francisco. Mr. Leather Dodger Allen was the first runner-up, and Dr. Alan J. Bowers of New Orleans, Louisiana was named the second runner-up.

The International Mr. Boot Black 2005 is Arthur "Boo Boo" Funni of Chicago. The 1st runner-up was Steven Hagen of Phoenix, AZ, and the 2nd runner-up was "Bootdog" of Castro Valley, CA. The other contestants were "Fuzzybuns", "Spike", Larry Laird, "Pup Sparkie" and Kyle Emmett.

IML Judges Race Bannon, Joseph Bean, Lynn Bouchard, Connie Cox, Jason Hendrix, Christian Henning, Chuck Rodocker, and Mike Zuhl faced 52 hopefuls for two days of interviews while tally masters Tom Kelley and Dennis McMahon added up the scores. The various appearances the contestants made stretched over three days including the opening ceremonies on Thursday, the Pecs & Personality segment on Saturday and the contest itself on Sunday.

Between all that, scores of parties were in progress in and around the host hotel, including the Hellfire Club's gathering, Toronto's Maple Leaf Party, Don't Mess With Texas, the Mid-Atlantic Brunch, the Onyx Dance and People of Color Seminar, The Pup Party, Women of Leather Party, 12-step gatherings each day, dungeon parties, luncheons, dinners and several hundred "private" parties. Cell phones were ringing all over the place and luggage was piled high everywhere. Across town, the Great Lakes Bears weekend was in progress so there were long lines and long waits at restaurants and bars all over town.

The newly renovated and enlarged bar of the Hyatt Regency Chicago hotel was packed constantly and the host hotel was completely sold out the entire weekend. The hotel staff met the challenge with a friendly, helpful attitude. The hotel's general manager



Mister Marcus

Victorious in Chicago at IML. L to R: Dodger Allen, 1st runner-up, Michael Egdes, IML 2005 and Dr. Alan Bowers 2nd runner-up. Front row: International Mr. Bootblack Arthur "Boo Boo" Funni in Chicago, Sunday, May 29.

ager greeted one and all at the opening ceremonies on Thursday and pledged excellent service in all departments to all the guests. The eight elevators were in constant use and the hotel maids graciously "looked the other way" at some of the accoutrements in various rooms.

The Navy Pier in Chicago is the biggest and most popular attraction in the entire state of Illinois, and when the buses packed with leather-clad attendees arrived at the venue on Sunday, the gawkers had a field day. The entire main floor was packed and the balconies were opened to accommodate the faithful who came to see who would take the space being vacated by IML 2004 Jason Hendrix and they weren't disappointed, I'll tell you.

When all the competition points were tallied, 20 men emerged as semi-finalists and it was my pleasure to introduce: Dodger Allen (#32), Alan Bowers (#37), George Brown, Jr. (#36), Shawn Carroll (#31), Will Castille (#44), Sean Cribbin (#19), Michael Egdes (#49), "Cody" Haugland (#51), Jeff Hettinger (#20), Scott Jones (#21), Wes Kasulke (#30), Adam Latham (#39), Jim Maciel (#38), Roberto Menichetti (#4), Steve Ranger



(#15), Georges Schott (#34), Stephen Seefeldt (#41), Richard Soulsby (#17), Robert Valin (#24), and Randy Wrisinger (#46).

The show on Sunday opened with hot dancers and the young master of ceremonies (more on him next week) did an excellent job throughout the weekend and is quite possibly the ONLY master of ceremonies who pronounced all 52 IML contestants' names correctly! After a welcoming speech by IML creator Chuck Renslow, the contest began in earnest.

The "Love Goddess" Judy Tenuta was the hit of the evening with some very biting jokes and commentary, singing and playing her tiny accordion. She managed to drag former Mr. DC Eddie Darrell Moyers to the stage for some fun and games. She was an absolute delight. And so was he!

IML 2004 Jason Hendrix had given his step-aside speech earlier in the weekend, so the "contest" was a "contest" except for the thank-you speech from Leather Archives & Museum Director Rick Storer. The MC had to stretch while the scores were being tallied. But finally, the moment of truth arrived.

The victor emerges

The two loving partners — James and Todd — of Michael Egdes were ecstatic to learn that

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, June 3-5

Great Plains Leather Sir/boy contests in Kansas City, MO. For more info: www.leathersir.com.

Tuesday, June 7

Bondage Buddies tie each other up at 933 Harrison St. tonight. For more info: 777-HEAD.

Weekend, June 10-12

In Toronto, Eastern Canada Leather Sir/boy contest at the Black Eagle. Also Mr. Edmonton Leather contest at the TransAlta Bus Barns. For more info Email to svryen@shaw.ca.

Saturday, June 11

SOMA Bare Chest Calendar Media Circus at the

Eagle Tavern from 1600 to 2000. Find out which of the 12 will be on the Front & Back covers.

Weekend June 17-19

Leather Pride in New York City with the Leather Pride Night Auction on Friday and the Folsom Street East Fair on Sunday, June 19. Also Southwest Leather Pride in Phoenix with the SW Leather Sir/boy contests.

Saturday, June 18

Mama's "Whipping Post" Contest at the Bolt in Sacramento from 2200 to 2400. Also Central Calif. Leather beer/soda bust at the Eagle Tavern from 1500-1800 with food, fantasies, a 50/50 raffle.

PORN

Bring in da funk

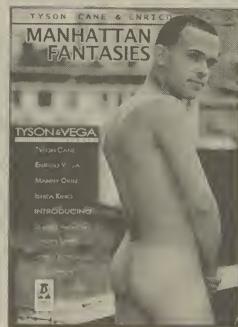
Rougher brand of ethnic porn

by John F. Karr

Porn stars Tyson Cane and Enrico Vega began their production company with the best intentions. "I want to make videos that represent what real America looks like," Cane said. "It's brown, it's black, and it's multicultural." In other words, their videos would represent men like themselves, emphasizing black and Latin casts. Their first video, *Manhattan Fantasies*, was released last year and was good enough to earn a GAYVN Awards nomination for Best Ethnic Video. While the All Worlds Video *Revolution Sexual* took the award, this big-budget costume epic about Pancho Villa admittedly posed sweeping competition for the no-dollars, first-time effort of Tyson and Vega. They had little else to offer beside earnest intentions and a fairly good-looking cast. These guys are neither the ghetto-styled thugz of smaller companies nor the upwardly mobile, assimilated men of larger companies.

The Tyson/Vega crew is obviously full of inner-city guys. They aren't sporting gangland bandannas and other class-denoting props, but they are a rougher, funkier brand of ethnic — very New York City.

Tyson and Vega gave their first effort a boost by appearing in it. The handsome and smooth-skinned Tyson appears in a flip-flop fuck with Sergio Anthony, and Vega's in a hearty three-way with a cropped-headed fucker and a smooth, cherubic Caucasian kid. Vega caps the scene's three-man chain-fuck with a true star's mighty orgasm that leaves his nose, mouth and chin draped with his cum. The movie also offered mix-ups with variously paired black and Latino couples. A dark-skinned couple lead off. Lean James Waters has a big, cut and handsome nightstick of a cock, which he wields over a corn-rowed and cornholed Joseph Sprint, who cumms like someone has turned on a hose. Chocolate-skinned and impressively built big guy Ishea King is topped by a horny little Latino fucker, Manny



Ortiz. Then another masculine, handsomely goated young Latino named Joey Green enjoys a self-pleasuring reverie with a dildo. He holds it adroitly in place with the heel of his foot, while grinding his ass down on it with ro-tary relish.

When Green's done, there's a fabulous shot of the dildo beginning to slither out of his ass like a snake, but it's unfortunately abruptly cut off. This is typical of much of the movie's editing, which, like the lighting and sound recording, lacks the polish that experience brings. This first-time effort is good, but still at the upper end of the amateur category.

Bland stand

There's a world of difference between *Manhattan Fantasies* and the new *OhBoyEscorts.com*. Why is this movie so much the inferior of its predecessor? It should be noted that it's not from Tyson-Vega Videos, but from Tyson Cane Videos. The first movie was produced, written and directed by Cane and Vega, while the second is a solo effort for Cane. If Vega's contributions were the key element they seem to be, they are sorely missed. The plot, about the inner machinations of an escort service, begins garbled and ends incomprehensible, and isn't helped by inadequate sound recording and hapless acting. Cane's videography and editing for the first feature were merely acceptable, but have worsened

here. None of the encounters are particularly well-staged for the camera, with several incidents of cleanly caught insertion shots standing out for being singular events. Even the music has declined in quality, from an ambient chill-out to bland mucilage.

Still, there is Cane's promised mix of racial types. Dimitri Santiago is paired with an eager 5 ft.-5 in. cupcake named Igor. Lugi's pastiness is offset by his shaved crotch and big, upturned cock, and countered by the mechanical way he recites lines like, "Oh, what a big cock you have?" as he gets unceremoniously fucked by Manny Ortiz.

The Latino-oriented first half of the film yields to the second half's black men. Box-cover men Kayne East and Merrick Barraje are dark-skinned, attractive and sultry. They're hustled through their suck into a high-energy fuck that's emphatic and long, but choppy. It finally arrives at a good Reverse Cowboy that gratefully lets us appreciate Kayne's long cock thrusting sharply upward just above the cheek-splitting insertion of Merrick's wide tool. Kayne gallops on that thing so brusquely you'd think his own flapping cock would just crack off. I'm confused about just who is making out in the last scene, but it features a most impressive cock — a black man's edition of Andy Hunter's long and slender flesh fuselage — which plugs sharp enough into its recipient to produce a propulsive, copious orgasm. With more sensitive direction and editing, both these couplings could have had something to offer. The guys are ready for prime time, even if the movie they're in isn't. www.tysonvega-videos.com

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

their man was the winner. Hundreds of flash bulbs flashed from digital cameras as a horde of the paparazzi descended on the stage, all thankful that the background this time around was white as snow.

The closing ceremony later that night in the host hotel was another addition to the weekend's official IML event. A parade of colors of bike clubs from around the nation made a colorful pastiche for all.

The press conference on Monday morning was an interesting affair, with Mr. Eges fielding questions of all sorts. On Monday night, the final event was the Black & Blue Ball — and the party blasted until the wee hours. The leather vendor market stayed open until 4 p.m. on Monday, and it was a vast expanse of leatherwear, toys, videos, DVDs, clothing, and any-



International Mr. Leather 2005 Michael Eges (center) with his two partners who are now "Soccer Moms", Todd on left and James on the right. It's a happy household in Fort Lauderdale these days!

thing fetish you could ever want. Smart shoppers waited until Monday when bargains galore were available.

It was a grand and glorious weekend! If you weren't there this

time, there's always next year for the 28th edition. You should start planning now if you want to attend. The planning for IML 28 begins in just a few days.

Next week: IML 05 - the DISH. ▼

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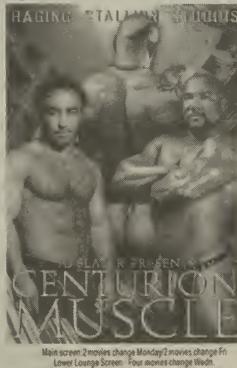
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Stripping down to undies for a good cause

by Donna Sachet

Legal Briefs II, the underwear fashion show and benefit for AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP), was a resounding success last Thursday night at the LGBT Center. Once again, usually staid attorneys revealed their wilder side by modeling underwear for the roaring crowd of co-workers and other supporters. One of the best moments this year was the **Gatto** family, last year's *Pride* magazine cover photo, including the two dynamic mothers **Ramona** and **Arzu**, and courageous daughter **Marina** of this non-traditional family, but also including Marina's charming boyfriend!

Other stand-out models included **Anna Damiani** in signature purple, **Calvin Gipson** in nearly nothing, Supervisor **Bevan Duffy** again proving his willingness to go the extra mile for the community, and the **Men of Titan** bringing a professional air to the proceedings. In the middle of the show, we were surprised by a musical set from that hard-working, ever-generous **Sharon McNight**, dressed in a smart leopard-print lounging outfit. A bevy of prizes kept the selling of raffle tickets brisk, but when no one was present to claim the grand prize, we seized the opportunity to hold a live auction and succeeded in raising an additional \$800 for the cause, with the winner receiving a Titan Video gift package, a night's stay and dinner at the Rex Hotel, and two Sharon McNight CDs. Don't miss this fun event next year. It is sure to grow.

Following this event, we headed over to the Metro Bar for *Sordid Lives*, a benefit for Equality California playing off the classic film *Sordid Lives*. Artful Circle Theater and Sister **Bella de Ball** hosted this over-the-top event with hilarious appearances by **Mark Sargent**, **Deana Dawn**, Novice Sister **Holly Lewy**, and **Trauma Flintstone**, and lively raffle prizes and auction items. These characters brought back to life the memorable, eccentric cast of this side-splitting movie, and kept the crowd in stitches for hours.



Don Payne, Karyn Ridgeway, Kari Hong at ALRP's Legal Briefs II.

Steven Underhill

tric cast of this side-splitting movie, and kept the crowd in stitches for hours.

Contrary to reports from other sources, not everyone left San Francisco over the Memorial Day weekend, and as a matter of fact, a number of people chose to visit our city. On Sunday alone, we dropped by a party at a beautiful private home on Potrero Hill; The Lone Star for an informal memorial for **A.L. Allen**, tireless volunteer for the Leather and Imperial Families; The Eagle Tavern for *Beer, Sex, and BLOW* (Beautiful Lips on Whistles), a grassroots campaign to empower against hate crimes, hosted by Sister **Kitty Catalyst** and **Manley Lennox**; Marlena's for **Jason Ladd's** Bar-B-Que fundraiser for the Widow Norton's 2006 Cemetery Pilgrimage; *Fresh at Ruby Skye*, the fabulous monthly dance club, this time benefiting the Touch Foundation; and finally, Sanctuary for a final dance surrounded by a packed and gorgeous crowd of men. You don't have to leave San Francisco on these holiday weekends to have a good time!

June plugs

Well, gird your loins for the upcoming month-long celebration of Pride as only San Francisco can do it! With the SF Interna-

tional LGBT Film Festival, the US Gay Tennis Open, the 8th Annual National Queer Arts Festival, and a host of official SF LGBT Pride events, June has something to offer everyone in our community. In addition, Tin Pan Alley Productions, a nonprofit enterprise dedicated to nurturing musical talent while supporting charitable causes, begins a series of Friday night shows at the Pan Pacific Hotel this Friday, June 3. Shameless plug or not, I am delighted to be opening this series this Friday with an eclectic show featuring classic cabaret music and some rather personal recollections of my San Francisco experience. Please join us at 8:30 p.m. We also hope to see you all at a fund-raiser for our dear friend Assemblyman **Mark Leno**'s reelection campaign at Club Mighty, 119 Utah Street, on Wednesday, June 8, at 6 p.m., and at the GLAAD Media Awards Dinner on Saturday, June 11, at Fort Mason, starting at 5:30 p.m. We are so proud of GLAAD's courageous decision to relocate this event away from one of the hotels involved in the current labor dispute, as a sign of solidarity. Given the tremendous cost and complexity of a venue relocation so close to the event, the financial success of this monumental event now truly depends on the support and attendance of the greater community. Besides, it is one of the best parties of the year! ▼



Steven Underhill

Kathleen Morris, ALRP exec. dir. Bill Hirsh, Donna, and Kim Arnone.

SOCIETY

You're all dears!

by Sweet Lips

My thought for today: "Thank you"—two words not used nearly enough in our daily conversations. They are easily said and much appreciated by so many people.

I want to especially thank my caregiver Steve for his help the other day when I felt I was losing it. Most people think I did that about 35 years ago!

Yes, the popular Ronnie Lynn is still doing her thing, "ya hear me," Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. till noon at the ever-hopping Cinch Saloon. They will be having — get your costumes ready — their Birthday Bash on Father's Day, June 19, properly referred to as "I've Writ-

Sweet Lips



ten a Letter to Daddy" for Jim Manges and Eddie Bellpepper, commonly called Baby Jane and Blanch Hudson. It is #65 for Blanche, and of course Miss Hudson is ageless. It will be hilarious and you won't want to miss it!

Charlie, who tends to the bar at

Kimo's on Thursdays from Noon on, is in charge of the Gay Pride Volunteers Program there and says he really needs people to help. See him at Kimo's or go to the Gay and Lesbian Center for more information. There's also a section on volunteering at the official SF Pride website at www.sfpride.org.

Well, the new "Vous" — as the new Club Rendez-Vous will be called — is posted and work has begun, according to David Kapp. He is hoping for a late July open-

ing, and the word is out and about that it will be greater and better than ever.

So long to L. James, who is relocating to Canada at the end of the month. You will be missed by all.

Lots of changes are happening in the Castro, but things are holding steady at the Mix Bar, where Marlow holds forth on Saturday and Monday a.m., and other hunky guys walk the plank the rest of the week, along with Sloane and Sylvia, who rule. Remember, it's the only bar out there that opens at 6 a.m. for the early birds. Stop by for a libation; they have great weekend Happy Hour prices.

Just a quick Hello to my friend Marty in New York — it was great talking with you the other day.

Hope you had a great Memorial Day weekend and, again, thanks for reading my column. ▼

Saving Face

◀ page 35

guage rants.

Wu eventually solved the language barrier and added comic zest to the film by having the mother speak Mandarin and Wil reply in English. The multilingual scenes are especially funny when there's a third party present. Wil's black gay neighbor and her English-speaking Chinese girlfriend are clueless when they're the butt of the mother's jokes.

Out in Silicon Valley

Wu's Silicon Valley childhood was happy, she was close to her mom, but the very intimacy of their bond caused her great guilt as she struggled to come out. "By coming out, it was like I was slapping my entire heritage in the face. It was going to have gigantic emotional ramifications for my parents. When I moved to Seattle, I was a lot more out, because, hell, no one there knew who I was. I felt more free to be me."

In Seattle, Wu co-founded a group for Asian lesbian and bisexual women, but as out as she was in the Northwest, she still felt a need to come clean with her mother. "This is the first time that most of my mom's friends are going to have any idea that I'm gay. I won't lie to you, it's kind of a weird feeling, but I'm more wor-

ried about what that would mean for my mother."

The core of *Saving Face* is a delicate daughter/mother dance around how the daughter's homosexuality is going to affect and possibly free both of them. "Up 'til then, my mom had told herself that she was living so that I could have a better life, but if I'm suddenly going to be gay, on some level there's a part of her that's like, 'Well, why should I be upholding a charade that's entirely for you?'

In many ways, her film is a rebuttal to social commentators who argue that the Chinese community is too conservative and too family-orientated ever to be comfortable with the queer lives open to their children in America. "Who would decide, 'I want to be in a group that would be so persecuted?' It's only if you've ever been in love with someone that, for that feeling, it makes sense."

Wu gives Chen's middle-aged, pregnant mother character a big conflict with her own father. "The mother actually rebels first by choosing not to get rid of the child, staying with Wil rather than marrying the man the grandfather wants her to marry. She's silently rebelling, and I think in a weird way that gives Wil the space to start to rebel herself a little more. This film is the journey that the mother takes to better understand her daughter's heart, as they es-

sentially go through puberty together. Wil tries to save her mother at the wedding arranged by the grandfather, and her gesture to do that releases her mother in a way."

Wu's other big challenge was to resist persistent pressure from the money people to give Wil's girlfriend, Vivian, a race change. After all, Ang Lee made a powerful inter-racial comedy, *The Wedding Banquet*, where a Chinese immigrant hides his white American boyfriend from his Taiwanese parents by having a phony green-card marriage with a Chinese woman. "This came up a lot like, 'Can we make Vivian white, maybe we can get a star?' I mean, no, we couldn't, because then we'd have to deal with the issue of race as well. Vivian's parents don't actually care that she's gay, they're more concerned that she stay in ballet. I wanted to show that not all Chinese parents think, 'If you're gay, we're going to reject you!'"

New York City's transit system is a key character in *Saving Face*. I was especially excited by the audacity of Wu's shooting a crucial late-film mother/daughter scene in the back of a very noisy NYC bus.

"At that point, it's so giddy with them running out of the church, I just needed something that would pop it over the top for us to get to that serious place. To me, it's just amusing. It's like *The Graduate*, only with Chinese people." Opens Friday. ▼

Lavender Tube

◀ page 38

dream as a little girl was to grow up and marry him. It's either really cute or really creepy. Stay tuned.

Pinch hits

The new summer lineup has wads of realty TV. NBC premieres one of its new series tonight. *Hit Me Baby 1 More Time* has former one-hit wonders coming back to win your love once again. If you want to be humming "Wang Chung" and "My Sharona" for the rest of the summer, this is the show for you.

ABC has been promo-ing the hell out of its new *American Idol*-ish show *Dancing with the Stars*. It premiered last night in the coveted time slot previously reserved for *Alias*, and features second-echelon "stars" like the former supermodel and not-yet-divorced wife of Rod Stewart, Rachel Hunter, and the prizefighter whose ear was

eaten by Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, trying to learn ballroom dancing from the pros, then competing. Juliet Prowse is pirouetting in her grave.

Also on Wednesdays on the WB: *Beauty and the Geek* (do you think we make this stuff up?). This show has a \$250,000 prize at the end and pits (you guessed it) the pretty but dim and the non-pretty but smart against each other. Last night featured a spelling bee and a dance contest. Omigod.

VH1 has an equally are-you-kidding premise with *Kept* on Sunday nights (in case you were really missing *Show Dog Moms and Dads*). Jerry Hall is looking for an escort (under 60). The boy toys compete by swimming the Thames in little more than Crisco. We repeat: Omigod.

Finally, it wouldn't be a week on TV without some scandal involving the ever-talented Paris Hilton. This week's *crise* is over her commercial for an upscale Texas burger joint. The commer-

cial features our girl Paris fake stripping, fake fucking, fake fellatio, fake you-know-what with a hose spouting all over her. Then she takes a great big bite of the great big burger. All to the tune of "I Love Paris," ending with her stale trademark line, "That's hot." It's soft-core porn, alright, but at least the production values are better than her last foray into skin.

Concerned Women for America, a conservative group of Ann Coulter clones, are *tres* obsessed over Paris, telling CNN that commercials like these breed pedophilia because they prepare children for sex. (Now *there's* logic for you!)

We dislike Paris as much as the next person with taste and substance, but we find it difficult to lay pedophilia at her feet. Where was CWA when *ET* gave a convicted pedophile \$1 million to cuddle and smooch her former victim on camera, then walk down the aisle with him? Hypocrisy or just selective *Tivo-ing*? Stay tuned. ▼

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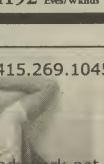
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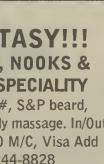
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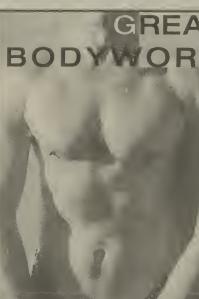
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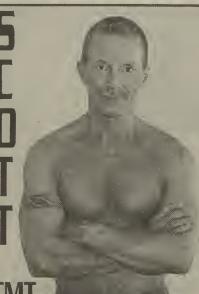
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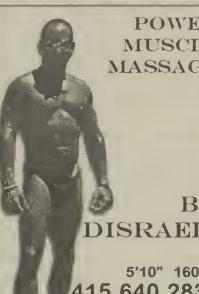
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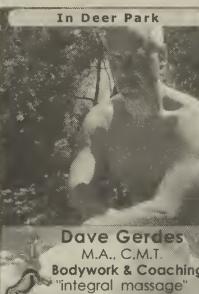
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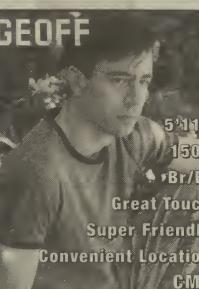
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37, 6'3" 190lbs
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E22

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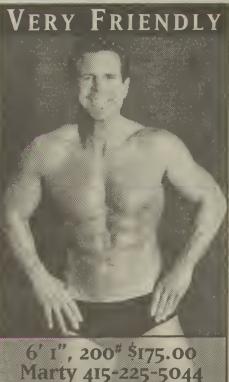
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BRAZILIAN TOM
 JUNE 20TH - 6TH

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Young Bottom Wanted

Mature Daddy Has Dungeon In NE Delté For Flogging Submissive, 18-38, Needing Discipline, Suspension, Whipping And Head Given.

71558

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5'9", 180, Balding, Moustache. Seeking A Mature, Orally Talented Gentleman (Clear Shaven Or Moustache Only) To Service Me 9am-2pm. Description/Direct Contact Phone # Required. Thanks.

71549

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71552

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71549

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I'm Asian With Nice Nipples And A Great Ass, Seeking Attractive Masculine Buffed White Top For A Hot Time.

71542

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71548

Spank Your Butt

Hot, Masculine Top, 38, 5'11" 175#, Seeks Well Built Bottom With Nice Ass For Over The Knee Spanking, Role Playing And Plowing Your Ass.

71544

PARTING GLANCE

Lonestar Sat. 5/21 Dusk Diablo DA.

Hi Tim You Were Sitting In The Corner Outside Wearing A Diablo Dancers T-Shirt. Sorry I Didn't Get To Talk To You. I'm Bold, In Red Baseball Cap, Would Love To See That Smile Again!

71557

EI Cerrito BART May 17

Wed, Noon You: On Your Cell Br/Br Speaking Portuguese Me: Cowgirl Hat, Wht Pants, Gotee, Too Shy To Say Hi.. Let's Do Coffee ~ Bob

71555

Giants Vs. Nationals - 1st Game

We Exchanged Many Glances On Muni On The Way To The Game. Me: Giants Jacket And Cap, Blonde Mustache. You: Wranglers, Boots With A Great Smile. Let's Get Past Glances!

71550

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Sweet Husky Muggable Mini Bear

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Kind, Easygoing, Playful, Masculine, Cheerful, Nice Smile Seeks Similar 25-50, Ongoing Passionate Foreplay! 6'2" 190lbs. Hairy, Dark Stash/Goatee, Blue Eyes, Shaved Head. Any Height/Race Thin Tightbodied. Oakland.

71543

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71546

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- Lesbian
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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

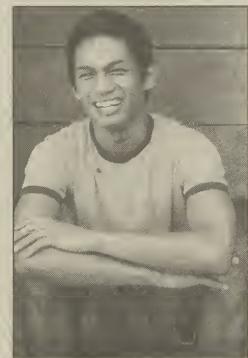
MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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E24



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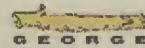
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